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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 4.

BOSTON, MASS., JULY 15, 1900.

NO. 1.

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A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Hot July!
Humidity.
Humidity.
Do your best.
Molting next.
Volume Four.
Begin culling.
Study comfort.
Dog days next.
How time flies.
Spade the runs.
Figure carefully.
Give us pointers.
Have enthusiasm.
Thin out the pens.
Welcome showers.
Separate the sexes.
Wash the fountains.
Hens deserve a rest.
See Our Symposium.
Purity is imperative.
Ever take a vacation?
Love your occupation.
Help Our Symposium.
Cut up grass for stock.
Hens are looking rusty.
Are you done hatching?
Discharge the grumbler.
Are the chicks growing?
What has been your loss?
The enthusiast is a thinker.
Overcrowding is distressing.
Don't become absent-minded.
Is the egg yield diminishing?
Crossing has become obsolete.
Answer Our Symposium queries.
Poultry enthusiasts are successful.

Experimental Farm Notes.

White Plymouth Rock No. 77 Takes a Back Seat, While Her Sister, No. 63, Heads the List—Light Brahma No. 52 Takes Second Place—A Big Fight for the Third Seat—General Notes and Comments.

There is no telling what hen or what breed will win in the egg contest on A FEW HENS' Experimental Farm. In the beginning of the year Light Brahma No. 62, was at the head; today she is way down the list. Then White Plymouth Rock No. 77, took the lead, and held it for several months. Now her sister No. 63, which only began laying February 6th, has rushed to the front. Light Brahma No. 52 is only one behind her, and takes second place, while several are only one behind that for third seat. Surely the contest is growing exciting.

* * *

During the month of May, the following number of hens and pullets were laying:

Pen No. 0	11
1	14
2	13
3	10
4	10
5	19
6	9
7	18
8	14
9	16
R. I. Reds	10
Miscellaneous	3

Total, 147

A loss of 9 layers during the month.

* * *

The above table represents the following number of layers of each breed:

Brahmas	57
Wyandottes	47
White Plymouth Rocks	30
Rhode Island Reds	10

* * *

During the month the following number of eggs were laid (not including those by Leghorn, Silver Wyandotte and Single Comb White Wyandotte):

Brahmas, 57 head, 751 eggs; average	13.10
Wyandottes, 47 head, 559 eggs; average	11.42
W. P. Rocks, 30 head, 412 eggs; average	13.22
R. I. Reds, 10 head, 125 eggs; average	12.5

Here is another surprise, the Wyandottes drop from first to last in the list, and the White Plymouth Rocks go

from last to first. The Brahmas still hold on to second place with a very small percentage below the winner.

The highest number of eggs we gathered in one day during the month of May was 93, and the lowest number 44.

The highest number of Brahma eggs received in one day was 35, and the lowest number 15.

The highest number of Wyandotte eggs received in one day was 33, and the lowest number 11.

The highest number of White Plymouth Rock eggs received in one day was 23, and the lowest number 6.

The highest number of Rhode Island Red eggs received in one day was 7, and the lowest number 1.

* * *

The standing of individual layers is as follows (from January 1st to June 1st—excluding all that laid under 40 eggs in that time:)

No. 63, White Plymouth Rock	72 eggs
52, Brahma (Cost)	71
26, White Wyandotte	70
45, " "	70
52, White Plymouth Rock	70
86, Rhode Island Red	68
46, White Plymouth Rock	67
75, " "	66
77, " "	66
38, White Wyandotte	66
16, Brahma (Felch)	65
30, White Wyandotte	63
59, Brahma (Cost)	63
6, " (Roberts)	61
17, " (Felch)	61
61, " (Cost)	61
17, White Wyandotte	61
18, " "	60
70, White Plymouth Rock	60
56, Brahma (Cost)	59
62, " "	59
47, " "	58
5, White Wyandotte	58
4, " "	57
7, " "	57
16, " "	57
43, Brahma (Felch)	57
46, " (Cost)	57
37, White Wyandotte	56
Silver Wyandotte	56
11, White Wyandotte	55
21, " "	55
22, " "	54
39, Brahma (Cost)	54
32, " (Felch)	53
8, White Wyandotte	53
51, White Plymouth Rock	53
21, Brahma (Felch)	52
12, White Wyandotte	51
35, " "	51
66, White Plymouth Rock	51
91, Rhode Island Red	51
50, Brahma (Cost)	50
76, White Plymouth Rock	50
54, " "	49

28, White Wyandotte.....	48 eggs
43, ".....	48
58, Brahma (Cost).....	47
45, ".....	46
95, Rhode Island Red.....	46
88, ".....	45
25, Brahma (Cost).....	45
35, " (Felch).....	45
34, White Wyandotte.....	45
64, White Plymouth Rock.....	45
Single Comb Wyandotte.....	45
43, White Wyandotte.....	44
25, ".....	44
81, White Plymouth Rock.....	44
1, White Wyandotte.....	43
13, ".....	43
89, Rhode Island Red.....	43
30, Brahma (Felch).....	42
40, " (Cost).....	42
15, " (Felch).....	40
54, " (Cost).....	40
73, White Plymouth Rock.....	40
82, Rhode Island Red.....	40

The highest individual egg record during the month belongs to White Wyandotte No. 45, she having laid 21 eggs.

The total number of eggs laid on the farm during May was 1939.

During the month of May the highest price we received retail for eggs was 17 cents a dozen; lowest 15 cents; average 16 cents.

In each pen we have a small box, holding about one dozen of eggs, tacked to the wall. As we take the eggs out of the trap nest we record the number on a sheet of paper tacked to the wall, and deposit the egg in this box. At night, after feeding, we gather the eggs from the boxes. In this way we can keep an accurate account of the laying hens. During breeding season we put the data on the egg, but since breeding season is over we use the sheets of paper for recording, leaving the eggs free from marks.

During the past month we have had considerable amount of bad damp weather, the result of which was a heavy loss of young chicks, despite our efforts to make them comfortable. Dampness is a hard matter to overcome.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Summer Eggs Generally Hold a Good Price in Cities and Summer Resorts—Hot Weather Cripples the Egg Yield—Lookout for the Cold Storage Sharks, Who Pay Your Price Now, but Compete Against You Next Winter and Spring in the Fresh Egg Market.

The cold storage shark is about.

Eggs should be kept in a cool spot.

The 36-dozen egg case is a mistake.

The trap nest weeds out the drones.

Never remove a hen from the nest while the egg is still wet.

Egg raising and marketing has been reduced to a science.

Dirty, small and defective eggs do not appeal to the patronage of the fancy trade.

Do not be tempted with the offer of the huckster who is buying goods for cold storage.

On A FEW HENS' Experimental Farm it is the aim to market all eggs every three days.

There is no disputing the fact that trap nests cost plenty of attention, but it is time profitably spent.

Even a flock of Leghorns will do poor laying in Summer if they are improperly fed and cared for.

After laying the egg, the hen wants and needs a few minutes' rest. Don't compel her to leave the nest.

The trap nest on a well-regulated poultry farm has become as much of a fixture as has the incubator and brooder.

Ten dozen eggs per year for each hen, on a large farm, is a good average—but time and proper mating will soon beat that figure.

During hot weather remove all hens to a separate building and run, that are found on the nests at night. They are becoming broody.

Cold storage eggs are not sold as such, but instead thrown upon a fresh egg market. Kill the scheme by refusing to lend a helping hand.

Mating your heaviest layers each year is the proper method to pursue to reach the 200-egg mark. Careful work with the trap nest will do it.

Don't grow careless with the trap nests during hot weather. Visit them every hour and don't keep the hen in them longer than is strictly necessary.

The practice of puncturing the egg with a needle to kill the germ is a bad one. Such eggs allow the air to enter which quickly places them in a doubtful state.

After breeding season it is always best to remove all the male birds, as the eggs stay in a better condition, and the hens are not worried during hot weather.

A correspondent in *American Agriculturist* says: Prize layers are not made in one season. It is done by getting a laying strain and breeding only from the best, carefully selecting each year those that have proved to be the best layers.

Frederick Hoerle, Torrington, Conn., writes: "My pen of six White Plymouth Rock hens laid 97 eggs in February, 146 in March, 155 in April, 109 in May. Four hens were set during this time. They are all high-scoring birds." Wonder if Editor Curtis will note that fact!

Ex-Editor Robert A. Braden, while conducting the Great and Only Ohio *Poultry Journal*, was asked "What breed can you recommend as being the greatest layers?" He replied: "Potato Bugs now hold the world's record by long odds as layers, and 101 per cent. of their eggs are fertile, too."

The New York *Produce Review* says washing eggs is "one of the few cases where the use of water for cleaning must be condemned." The trouble in the markets from "washed eggs" is not due to the fact that they have been cleaned with cold water, but that they were washed in hot water, so as to kill the germ of the egg.

A correspondent in the New York *Produce Review* says trying to make dirty eggs clean by washing them is a "seductive and ruinous practice." He says the effect of the weather on washed stock is "something fierce." They should be left dirty and unwashed. We do not fully agree with that. Washing and wiping thoroughly dry is always labor well spent.

Harsh methods should never be used to break up broody hens. We have a separate shady yard in which we put

all hens found on the nest at night. They are compelled to stay in this yard during the day time, and at night are allowed in a building in which are no nests. One week is generally sufficient to break them up, and they go back to laying again.

In England quite a business is done sending eggs by express for select family trade, says *American Agriculturist*. Much depends upon the method of keeping before shipment. Eggs gathered soon after being laid, and kept in a cool place will be fresher at the end of six days than others three days old if allowed to lie in the nest and afterward stored in a warm or uneven atmosphere.

E. R. Reid, Englewood, N. J., breeder of Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds, writes: "From 12 hens I got 725 eggs from January 1 to May 31. I set about 80 eggs, and have 68 very lively chicks, some nearly two months old now. A FEW HENS and another paper brought me all the orders for hatching eggs I could fill, and more, too. Should I have sufficient stock, I will be with you again this Fall. My eggs have hatched well with me. From 11 or 12 eggs never less than 8 and generally 10 chicks."

About Broilers and Roasters.

The Belgian Hare Craze is Destined to Hurt the Roaster Market, and Yet the Poultry Journals Continue to Boom the Fad—The Market Fancies Must be Catered to, if, in These Times of Strong Competition We Wish to Succeed.

Quick growth gives juicy meat.

It will pay to have special fattening pens. Inbred poultry are a loss to the grower. Pure bred poultry are best meat producers.

Send the old hens and surplus males to market.

Chicago is developing into a capon market.

Fowls cannot be properly fattened while in a flock.

Over-exercise is not a help in poultry growth for market.

Holding poultry for better prices too often has the reversed effect.

The feathers are left on the neck, tail, wings and thighs of dressed capons.

Poultry Farmer says it takes from 7 to 9 months for a capon to develop its excellence.

Capons weighing 6 pounds command earliest sale, but 9 to 10 pound birds bring best prices.

Caponizing is performed when the birds are about 2 or 3 months old—before the comb develops.

It is a noted fact that the majority of those who failed at broiler raising lacked business facilities.

Market poultry must come from strong, hardy stock, or the food and labor invested in them will be lost.

Ascertain the market weight desired for the season of the year, and ship as soon as the stock reaches it.

Col. Robert A. Braden once said: "All brands of whisky are good, but some are better." So with poultry for

market purposes—all breeds are good, but a number of them excel for special purposes.

Dr. Franklin, in his philosophical experiments, tells us that game or poultry killed by electricity will become tender in the twinkling of an eye, and if dressed immediately will be delicately tender.

A specialty in the London market is the small broiler from Belgium, which sells to first-class restaurants for 46 cents each. It is grown in 6 weeks from the Braekel breed of Flemish fowls which has long been famous for its precocity.

The poultry journals seem to have "gone mad" on the Belgian hare craze. To cheapen hare meat will mean a strong competition with chicken meat. Poulterers, are you not working against your own interests when you are helping to boom this new fad?

Late fries we consider just as desirable as early fries, says an exchange, and to this end we recommend late chicks to serve this purpose. These are inexpensive, are much less care than the early ones, grow faster and serve a good purpose late in the season, since fried and broiled birds at half grown is about the nicest thing that can be secured.

F. H. G., in *American Stock-Keeper*, says: "For broilers I have never seen anything that suited my fancy better than the Malay, especially the White or Pyle Malay. All Malays are meaty and plump, and, as they grow very fast during the early part of their lives, and are solid and full-breasted from the first they are, I believe, especially adapted to broiler purposes." I wish to go on record with the prediction that in less than 20 years the meat of Belgian hares will be as common on the tables of rural people as that of chicken is now, says T. Greiner, in *Practical Farmer*. Those who know Mr. Greiner know of his ability to successfully predict—and yet the poultry journals continue to boom the Belgian hare against their own interests.

The Baltimore *Sun* says St. Joseph, Mo., has the champion chicken picker, who is said to have a record of one chicken picked in three seconds. When business is slack this champion readily secures a dime museum engagement. During his chicken picking career of 32 years he has been matched against 128 dressers, but he has never lost a contest. He is 39 years old and has followed chicken picking since he was 8 years old. After scalding the chicken Fisher places it upon the table on its back. With one broad sweep of the hand he strips every feather from its neck and breast. The legs and wings are treated in a like caressing manner while he appears to be only turning it over. The back is last denuded of its feathers and the fowl is dressed. It is impossible to tell how he does it. No motion is lost. Every stroke of the hand brings with it a bunch of feathers and leaves the clean white skin behind.

Mr. T. Inomata, of Tokyo, Japan, paid A FEW HENS' Experimental Farm a

visit last month, for the purpose of investigating the practical part of poultry culture as generally practiced in America. Mr. Inomata is a bright young Japanese, who speaks the English language quite well. He informed the editor that his uncle was engaged in the poultry business in Japan, devoting himself more to egg production, for which he kept Wyandottes, Leghorns, Brahmas, Andalusians and Cochins. But Mr. Inomata's prime object is to raise table poultry, and he wished to learn not only our methods, but the appliances we used. All market poultry in his country is sold alive. From Hamonton Mr. Inomata left for Boston to interview the editor of *Farm-Poultry*, and other noted poultrymen in that section. Then a trip is proposed to Homer City, Pa., to study the workings of the Prairie State incubators and brooders, a supply of which he intends having shipped to his country. There is no preference in Japan when it comes to color of dressed carcasses, but Mr. Inomata says he will keep principally Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes.

Our Brevity Symposium.

Here is a Chance for Our Readers to Help Edit A FEW HENS—We Want a Prompt Response to This Call—The Continuance of this Department Will Depend Upon the Interest Our Readers Take in it.

It has been some time since we published our Symposium department. We formed the opinion that we could please our readers better by presenting the same matter in a different shape, but, it seems not, if we may judge from the many letters received asking that the department be again resumed.

Now if our readers will heartily join in the work, we can make this department more valuable and attractive than ever. But there must be a hearty and liberal response.

We will, each issue, ask a number of questions, such as come to mind, or which may be prompted by the correspondence of our readers, and we want at once all to sit down and answer as many of these questions as they can. In this way we will have an experience meeting that will be unique and profitable.

But we must insist on brevity. Put your replies in as few words as possible, and make answers as plainly as is in your power. If "Yes" or "No" answers the question, do not say any more. Replies can be sent on postal cards.

A FEW HENS realizes the fact that much valuable information can be gleaned from opinions of beginners. We all have different ways of seeing things—our experiences differ—and very often a way can be given by an amateur in solving a problem which even an expert never thought of.

Remember, the success and continuance of this department will depend upon the live interest our readers take in it. It is not sufficient that they read and praise it, but it is important that they do their share towards keeping it alive with instructive matter.

Here are a few questions. Read them carefully, and then sit down and tell us what you know about them:

NO. 1.

What methods do you pursue in fighting lice, and have you been reasonably successful?

NO. 2.

In raising Leghorns or any of the Mediterranean breeds, what do you do when the wing feathers grow so rapidly that the chicks droop?

NO. 3.

What six rules do you find the most important in successful poultry culture?

NO. 4.

In market culture, what branch do you make the specialty—eggs, broilers or roasters—and why?

NO. 5.

What breeds do you keep, and why do you prefer them to others?

NO. 6.

What experience have you had with trap nests, and what make of nests do you use?

NO. 7.

In using trap nests, what per cent. of eggs have you found outside of the nests on the floor, on the boards, or in the runs?

NO. 8.

What success have you had this year in hatching and rearing chicks by hens? Have results been as good as they were last year? If not, to what cause do you attribute losses?

NO. 9.

Have you ever made the comparison of natural and artificial methods in hatching and rearing chicks? If so, what have been your conclusions?

NO. 10.

Are you troubled with rats, cats, skunks, weasels, minks, hawks or crows? What do you consider, from experience, to be the best methods of preventing their visits, or getting rid of them if they do come?

NO. 11.

What has been your experience in matings this year—that is, how many females have you allowed each male (naming breed) and what success have you had in fertility of eggs?

NO. 12.

What does it cost you, per year, to keep a hen, and what average profit do you have per head?

Now, those are twelve important questions, and we know that if our readers will at once sit down and answer all they can, considerable information will be imparted.

In your replies do not be led by what others may have said, but tell everything from your own experience. We want personal experiences.

Conducted on these lines, our Symposium will be more like a farmers' club. Have you ever attended a farmers' club meeting? If you have, you will remember how, when a question is put before the house, each member present gives his ideas and experiences, which,

summed up, imparts information that might never have been found in print. Sometimes, on the spur of the moment, a person is reminded of a former experience which had entirely escaped his memory. Probably recalling that fact may be worth considerable to him today.

In these days of advancement, we are continually grasping the new ideas and experiences, and often forgetting the old ones, many of which are superior to those of today.

We want A FEW HENS to be an encyclopedia of useful information, not theories. We want to publish just such things as have been tried and found all right. We can all teach each other—no one is so old that he cannot learn something new, and none so young that he cannot tell us something we never knew. That is why we want our Symposium conducted on these lines. Are you with us? If you will, we shall make this department the special feature of each monthly issue of A FEW HENS.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Never Fuss With a Hen that Has a Contagious Disease; While You are Attempting to Doctor it You Jeopardize the Entire Flock—Don't Risk the Ninety and Nine to Mourn Over the One Lost Hen.

Let there be perfect cleanliness.
Green food has a medicinal effect.
Lice flourish this kind of weather.
Hot weather causes a looseness of bowels.
Fowls enjoy and must have a dust bath.
Fowls as a rule suffer from a severe fright.
See that the roosting room is well ventilated.
Dampness and filth are prime causes of canker.
Sickness cuts in profits more than a low market.
Don't judge the disease by a single symptom.
Overcrowding causes cholera—or something by that name.
Lack of fresh water during hot weather causes much sickness.
Disinfect freely and often. That is one of the best preventatives of disease.
The fowls are already assuming that rusty look preparatory to molting.
The man who supplies cracked oyster shells for grit is generally in want of a "cholera" cure.
The keeper who sees that his fowls are comfortable is never in want for a remedy for sickness.
Many feathers are shed during July, owing to fowls crowding on the roost at night and sweating.
Wash the drinking fountains. There is nothing that will produce sickness quicker than foul water.
Closing up the hen house tight at night is harmful to the stock. Hens cannot be comfortable in a sweat box.
Unless the males are removed from the pens at this time of the year, the hens may have to suffer from lacerated backs.
Common baking soda—teaspoonful to a half gallon of drinking water—is a relief to fowls suffering from loose bowels.

Where several fowls in a flock show similar symptoms of sickness, there is something wrong with the food or housing.

Always try to ferret out the cause of sickness at hand. It is the only way to provide successful preventative measures.

The pale-faced droopy fowl needs a physic. We give a Parsons' Purgative Pill, and then turn the patient out on a grass run.

We do not believe feather-pulling is caused by anything but idleness. The theory that it is due to a lack of salt in the food is a mistake.

Broodiness is a feverish condition. To use harsh methods to break up the hen is inhuman, and is generally attended with bad results.

Sitting hens during July must have as cool place as possible. A neglect in this causes severe bowel troubles, and in a great many cases ends in death of the hen.

Common baking soda is excellent for diarrhoea. Mix some of it with cornmeal or flour and water, and make into small pills. Two or three pills given each day will in a few days afford relief.

When you notice that the combs of the fowls darken at times, and then again resume their brightness, it is a pretty sure indication that the digestive organs are out of condition. Charcoal and grit are two of the best preventatives of this disorder.

Sometimes a teaspoonful of soda water will soon relieve a crop-bound fowl, says *Baltimore Sun*. Use a heaping teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda to a tea cup of water. Give the fowl a teaspoonful then gently work the finger and thumb. Manipulate it a very little. Keep fowl alone. If not relieved, in four hours give a teaspoonful of sweet oil.

Texas Farm and Ranch says: One of our best poultry journals says, "Keep your chickens free from vermin. Little chicks should have their heads and necks well greased a short time after they are given to their mother." This will kill more chicks than lice, for little chicks will stand very little grease, especially grease that is slow to dry up. Why not advise a preventative, so as not to have lousy chickens? Before hatching, a hen should be well dusted with insect powder or snuff. Two treatments will not be too much the last only a day or two before hatching. It may be well, while about it, to dust the nest thoroughly, to kill any other insects or vermin that may be lurking there. We don't believe in greasing very young chicks.

Questions Briefly Answered.

Condensed Replies to the Many Inquiries Received at This Office.

FOOD AND FEEDING.

W. J. B.: Your son's hens had a certain amount of eggs to lay yet, and the amount of oats they received (oats is about as good an egg food as can be given) seemed to be sufficient to produce them. But, your manner of feeding will tell better in the long run.

B. N. M.: We are at present feeding only twice a day. One meal is a mash composed of bran, cornmeal, ground oats and middlings, equal parts by measurement, to which is added one-fifteenth the amount in meat scraps. We also cut up green clover or other green food and mix with the mash. The other meal is a whole grain diet, that is equal parts of oats, wheat and cracked corn, by measurement. This bill of fare about equally balances, and we are getting excellent results.

B. G. T.: Two meals a day are sufficient during Summer.

S. D. F.: We should rather feed mash at night during Summer than in Winter, as it more quickly digests, and does not produce so much heat as does whole grain.

D. F. G.: We have come to the conclusion that the best way to feed a variety of grains (whole) is to feed them mixed and at the same time. A hen will generally pick out that which she thinks suits her needs best.

BREEDS.

P. L. H.: You can no doubt secure the book you desire on Brown Leghorns by addressing the Excelsior Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey Street, New York City.

J. L. D.: We have had but a year's experience with the Rhode Island Reds and therefore can hardly give a satisfactory opinion of the breed. We can say, however, that the hens in point of color are very irregular, more like dunghills than anything else, but when it gets down to business they are grand layers and strictly first-class table poultry.

Never had any experience with the Buff Orpingtons.

R. E. W.: We cannot say which would be best, the Single Comb or the Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds. We had both, but sold the Rose Combs. In point of color, they seemed to be the most uniform.

H. J. K.: We never kept the White Wonders, but judging from the material from which they are made believe they are good practical birds. We may give them a trial next year.

W. E. R.: Yes, Games seem to be more easy prey to roup than any breed we know of.

In our experience, we have found the Light Brahmas the hardiest of all the breeds.

N. H. K.: The Andalusians are of the same class as the Minorcas, and are grand layers.

J. K. L.: The Jersey Blues are a dead letter. They were very popular some years ago.

DISEASES.

W. B. C.: The older the hen the later the molt, as a rule. Early molting can be secured, however, to a certain extent, by adding a good reliable condition powder in the mash during July.

W. E. R.: Old fowls do not get gapes. That which you suppose is a case of gapes is really a bronchial trouble. Give the fowl a teaspoonful of glycerine, to which is added four drops of Johnson's Anodyne Liniment, and you will stop the gaping at once.

J. P. G.: The best "cholera" medicine we know of is charcoal and grit. Mix the former in the soft food, and keep a box of the latter constantly within reach.

L. O. P.: We do not believe there ever was a genuine case of roup cured. We do not doubt that such cases were so improved that the fowls seemed well, but still the germ of the disease remained alive, and either showed itself again in the fowl or in the offspring.

F. R. T.: The way to have hardy stock is to mate only the hardiest of parents. Mate to strengthen the constitution.

D. E. R.: Inbreeding is a curse to utility work. No matter what argument may be gotten up to favor the practice, it is a notorious fact that inbreeding weakens the constitution, and each generation becomes more easy prey to disease.

E. D. C.: We have no faith in roup pills. A good reliable condition powder will do more good as it strengthens the fowl and creates an appetite. A two-grain quinine pill daily for about a week will drive away the heavy cold.

* * *

TURKEYS, DUCKS AND GEESE.

V. P. T.: A Virginia paper tells of a turkey recently marketed in that State weighing 69 pounds.

S. D. F.: Turkey fowls are apt to have crooked breasts from improper breeding.

H. E. L.: The Indian Runner ducks are said to be the champion layers of the duck family.

G. T. R.: No breed of ducks, to our knowledge, equals the Pekins for market purposes.

K. I. P.: The Rhode Island Experiment Station (Kingston) has made more trials with geese than any of the State Stations.

H. T. R.: Samuel Cushman, Pawtucket, R. I., is a reliable breeder of Embden and African geese.

D. E. W.: Geese cannot be profitably kept in confinement. They are a grazing bird, and must have a pasture to roam over.

H. T. R.: Of all our domestic birds, we believe the turkey can stand more exposure at night than any. It is wrong to house turkeys at night; they should be allowed to roost in an open shed.

G. E. H.: If breeding ducks have water to bathe in, they will be less likely to overfatten, and will keep cleaner. Growing ducks, however, especially those intended for market, should not be allowed to take this exercise, or they will keep too poor in flesh.

A. E. H.: Young turkeys require considerable care until they are fully feathered and are through "shooting the red." After that they are exceptionally hardy.

* * *

MISCELLANEOUS.

E. W. B.: Even when fowls have free range, there should be a box of good hard sharp grit in the hen house, so the fowls can help themselves the first thing in the morning. The pebbles and stones usually found in a range are round, and not sharp enough for cutting the grain in the crop.

H. E. R.: We cannot tell you which is the best method for judging fowls—scoring or comparison—as it is entirely out of our line.

J. G. D.: Scratching sheds under the roosting pens are all right to a certain extent, but hens are so apt to lay in them, which makes it difficult to gather the eggs.

H. Y. K.: By candling eggs is meant testing by holding the egg before a bright lamp light to determine its condition. If the egg is perfectly clear, and the air cell hardly perceptible, the egg is fresh. When cloudy, or with spots on the yolk, the egg is rejected.

T. E. B.: A trap nest where the hen can free herself after through laying would be no use for keeping a record.

F. E. R.: P. H. Jacobs, the editor of *Poultry Keeper*, still resides in Hammononton, N. J. The removal of his paper to Quincy, Ills., does not affect his residence.

H. L. S.: We have no record of having received a letter from you. It may have been lost in the mails. We cannot agree to answer all letters, as our mails are too heavy, and we have too much to do editing A FEW HENS and conducting our poultry plant.

A. E. B.: You can buy clover meal from Johnson & Stokes, 217 Market street, Philadelphia.

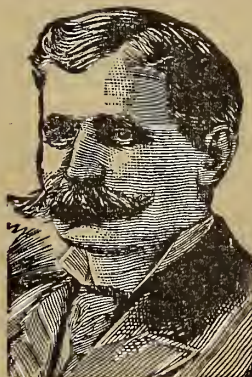
O. P. B.: Yes, A. F. Hunter, South Natick, Mass., is still in the poultry business. He has one of the most complete plants in New England.

H. J. M.: The Perfection Egg Crate is an excellent egg carrier. It can be had at almost any poultry supply house.

B. D. E.: The molting season generally begins the latter part of August, and lasts 100 days.

G. E. B.: During warm weather we kerosene the roosts every week. It kills the mites.

K. I. P.: Lee's Lice Killer is an excellent article. See their advertisement in A FEW HENS.



MAJOR'S RUBBER and MAJOR'S LEATHER.
Two separate cements—the best. Insist on having them.
ESTABLISHED 1876.
15 and 25 cents per bottle at all druggists.
MAJOR CEMENT CO., NEW YORK CITY.

NELSON'S

White Wyandottes are sure to satisfy his customers. The pullets mature early and lay splendidly. A few choice cockerels and yearlings left. Orders for young stock booked now.

Nelson's Poultry Plant,
55 Hillside Road,
Medford, - - Mass.

'DOTTES

T. R. F.: The Hatch Experiment Station is connected with the Massachusetts Agricultural College, at Amherst.

H. E. S.: To the best of our knowledge Mr. J. H. Drevenstedt is not engaged in the poultry business. His time is too completely taken up editing a weekly poultry journal and judging poultry shows.

G. H. T.: I. K. Felch devotes his entire time to poultry work, and has been doing so for 30 or 40 years.

D. G. J.: Steyer's Lice Powder is a very effective article; we use it on our Experimental Farm.

B. G. T.: Poultry farms, as a general thing, do not like to take students, as they have no time to properly teach them. The Rhode Island Experiment Station has a class in poultry culture which is doing good work.

W. L. B.: We have never heard of a really practical poultry farm in England; that is, one which devotes its entire attention to the market question. France pays the most attention to table poultry and eggs.

E. C. B.: For young chicks we like the Russ fountain the best. It is made of earthenware, and is easily filled with water and kept clean. Write Excelsior Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey Street, New York City.

W. E. B.: The drinking vessel for ducks should be deep, so that they can get their heads under water and

STEARN'S BONE CUTTER

(Formerly Webster & Hannum).

THE WHOLE EGG is contained in green cut bone. Five pounds of it increases laying more than a bushel of wheat. It makes a wonderful difference in profits. The only means of producing it in a form not dangerous to chicks and pullets is the

STEARN'S BONE CUTTER.

Runs with less power than is required by any other. The simplest, self-regulating, self-feeding, non-clogging. Best in all ways.

E. C. STEARN'S & CO.,
Box 6 Syracuse, N.Y.



A NEW BOOK ON BELGIAN HARES

Belgian Hare Breeding.

This is a new treatise on the subject of breeding, care and general management of the Belgian Hare, including chapters on the construction of houses and hutches, diseases, marketing, judging by Standard requirements, etc. It is for the beginner and gives details that he must be familiar with to be successful. Price 25 Cents.

The FANCIERS' REVIEW has an up-to-date, original Belgian Hare Department. Subscription price 50 cts. a year, including the book FREE.

THE FANCIERS' REVIEW,
BOX 3, CHATHAM, N. Y.

"Best Liver Pill Made." Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

thus keep their eyes free from dirt; otherwise they will suffer from sore eyes.

H. E. L.: Peach trees give the quickest and best shade in a poultry run.

W. D.: Egg testers can be purchased at any poultry supply house. They sell at about 35 cents each.

Mrs. R. T.: The most complete poultry book is "Poultry-Craft" published by I. S. Johnson & Co., 22 Custom House Street, Boston, Mass. It is a handsome book of 272 pages, substantially bound in cloth, appropriately illustrated, and will be sent post-paid for \$2.00.

P. P. F.: M. M. S. poultry fencing is far ahead of the ordinary mesh. We use it on our Experimental Farm, and are more than pleased with it.

T. G. I.: Send 2 cent stamp to I. S. Johnson & Co., 22 Custom House Street, Boston, Mass., for a copy of the book poultry Diseases, by Michael K. Boyer. It will give you the information you desire.

C. V. B.: Advertising forms close on the 5th of each month.

B. F. B.: For best results in eggs we should prefer yarding our fowls, leaving them out on a grass run (if we had one) about two hours in the evening. As a labor-saving method, fowls running wild over the farm cost practically no care—but then there is nothing gained in profits.

W. Z.: You would find Georgia not only a healthy State to live in, but one of the best in the South for poultry business.

W. C. B.: Breeders are not always to be blamed for poor hatches. A sitting of eggs from a yard today may give excellent results, and one from the same yard tomorrow may reverse it.

S. D. W.: We use the Prairie State incubators, and find them reliable. An incubator contest would be unreliable, besides there would be considerable expense attached to a contest of the different machines.

B. H.: We never tried a Peep-'O-Day brooder, but believe that it is a good one.

W. W. K.: We have tried nearly all popular roofing papers, but like none so well as Neponset Red Rope Roofing. It is durable. Send to F. W. Bird & Son, East Walpole, Mass., for samples.

G. S.: Dixon's Silica Graphite Paint is the best for covering roofing paper.

F. F. L. Chloro-Naptholeum can be purchased from the West Disinfecting Co., 29 East 59th St., New York City.

MUST SELL to make room. Five good breeding hens and cock, Buff Wyandottes, \$7.00. Twelve hens and cock, Silver Wyandottes, \$14.00. MAPLE SHADE POULTRY FARM, Stanfordville, N. Y.

WANTED. To rent a poultry farm with accommodations for 300 hens. Will purchase at the end of a year if satisfactory.
I. L. CASE, Tekonsha, Michigan.

EXCHANGE. 220-egg Cyphers Incubator, ditto indoor brooder, Adam Green Bone Cutter, Gent's Bicycle (never used except cutter) for new double-runner 2-seated sleigh, new work harness, or anything can use. No live stock. F. S. Tenney, Peterboro, N. H.

ADVANCE TRAP NEST \$1.25 each; plans 75c. Guaranteed. No chains or cords to wear out and break. Stamp for picture. Wanted Partner with capital to engage in poultry business, to rent a place, N. J. preferred.
WINFIELD DARLING, South Setauket, L. I., N. Y.

Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

When a hen is bound to set
Seems as though 'tain't etiket
Dowsin' her in water till
She's connected with a chill.
Seems as though 'twas skursely right
Givin' her a deradful fright,
Tyin' rags around her tail,
Poundin' on an old tin pail,
Chasin' her around the yard,
—Seems as though 'twas kiud of hard
Bein' kicked and slammed and shooed
'Cause she wants to raise a brood.
I sh d say it's gettin' gay.
Jest 'cause natur' wants its way.
—While ago my neighbor Penni,
Started bustin' up a hen;
Went to yank her off the nest,
Hen though made a peck and jest
Grabbed his thumbnail good and stout,
—Liked to yank the darn thing out.
Penn he twisted away and then
Tried again to grab that hen.
But, by ginger, she had spunk,
'Cause she took and nipped a junk
Big's a bean right out his palm,
Swallowed it and cool and calm
Hi'sted up and yelled "Cah hah!"
—Sounded like she said "Hoo-rah!"
Wal, sir, when the hen done that,
Penni, bowed, took off his hat,
—Spunk jest suits him, you can bet—
"Set," says he, "gol darn ye, set."
—Farmer's Guide.

A poultry crank isn't the worst man in this world.

If you are losing interest and love in your work, change your occupation. Oh, for a Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Fowls.

Don't seek the shade to cool off, while your fowls are exposed to the burning sun.

Anybody can "keep" chickens, but not anybody can have the chickens keep him.

A good Christian won't let his fowls suffer this hot weather for lack of attention.



THE STAR INCUBATOR

hatches every hatchable egg, and chicks are as strong as if hatched by a hen. **Positive directions for ventilation. No moisture required. Catalogue free.**

STAR INCUBATOR CO., 22 Church Street, Bound Brook, N. J.
NEW YORK OFFICE, 68 MURRAY ST.

FOUR Poultry Papers For \$1.25.

Your Own Choice of TWO of Them.

FARM-POULTRY, semi-monthly,	-	-	-	Price, \$1.00
A FEW HENS, monthly,	-	-	-	Price, .25

YOUR CHOICE OF ANY OTHER TWO **50 Ct.** POULTRY PAPERS IN THE U. S., \$1.00.

All sent to one address, one year, for the small sum of \$1.25, cash in advance, which is the price of *Farm-Poultry* and *A Few Hens* alone.

YOU SAVE \$1.00 COLD CASH.

Send all orders to us, with cash, stamps or money orders. Do not send checks unless you add 10 cts. for exchange. No changes allowed after order is entered. Postage added in town where paper published.

FARM-POULTRY PUB. CO., 22 Custom House Street, Boston, Mass.

Poor hatches seem to have been more numerous than usual this year, says *Fanciers' Review*.

Experiences differ with locations. Think of that before you judge a man's reported experience.

Think of the drinking vessels perfectly dry, and you enjoying a cooling drink. There's not much humanity in that act.

The hen is a perpetual source of income. She stands at the head of the list of farm auxiliaries, says *Pacific Homestead*.

The man who will neglect his poultry on the first day of the week because it is Sunday, hasn't got any Christianity to spare.

Many thanks to those who volunteer advice on "running your paper." Editors as a rule are dumb—the readers are all-wise.

The man who will overcrowd his hen roost Summer nights, should be put in a sweat box himself.

The *Fanciers' Review* says: You are courting disaster unless you give unceasing attention to the details of the poultry house and yard.

Michigan *Farmer* says raise what the public demands, and you will be more apt to make money than by following your own inclinations.

Not every poultryman can be an editor—neither can every editor be a poultryman! No insinuations, please; we draw this from observation.

MAKES CHICKS GROW

Nothing will produce such rapid growth in chicks as cut green bone. There is only one machine which you can afford to use to cut it, and that is the **HUMPHREY GREEN BONE & VEGETABLE CUTTER**. Guaranteed to cut more bone with less labor than any other cutter made. Your money back if it doesn't do it. Send for circulars and have your name entered for free book and egg record.

HUMPHREY & SONS, Box 23, JOLIET, ILL.

O. D. Shock says rational management of the poultry industry insures its success. Mismanagement will even to a greater degree ruin it and render it unprofitable.

In the poultry business, as in a great many other lines, says the *Fanciers' Review*, "Be not the first by whom the new is tried, yet not the last to lay the old aside."

Energy? Yes, it is a most desirable factor in poultry culture, but energy uncontrolled by common sense is a waste of forces which are given us to be utilized, not dissipated, says *National Fanciers' Journal*.

The *Baltimore Sun* says there is no reason why a large flock of fowls and a number of hives of bees could not be managed by a woman, and it is possible that with the extra care that would probably be bestowed the profits would be as large, if not larger, than when managed by the male sex.

Orange Judd Farmer says the utility strains of White Wyandottes have more good points for the farmer than any other breed. They are very good layers of brown eggs and will lay through the Winter months, and keep it up in Summer. The Wyandotte is very quiet in disposition.

If you are looking for a business to which you can give the very best of your ability and care, it isn't necessary for you to adopt a profession, says *National Fanciers' Journal*. Just a simple, plain chicken business will furnish all the opportunity for scientific experiment, study and research any one needs.

If there is one thing more necessary than any other in successfully conducting affairs, it is system, says *National Fanciers' Journal*. Unless ones endeavors are systemized they are prone to be unprofitable, and it behooves every poultryman to see that his business is so managed that the waste of effort will be reduced to a minimum.

Rome wasn't built in a day, nor is a poultryman made in a single season, says *Iowa Homestead*. The best of them still have a good deal to learn, and are entirely ready to admit it, and it is no shame to the beginner if he makes a good many mistakes. The thing to do is to persist in spite of them, learn from them and be careful, attentive and studious in mastering poultry problems.

A breed may approach perfection in some localities and be lacking in others, says *Baltimore Sun*. The influence of the climate often has much to do with the selection of the breed. With all the advantages in favor of a breed for prolificacy, hardiness is always essential to success, otherwise loss and disease may more than balance the gain in other essentials.

Really the best breed is the one you have tested and tried as the one best adapted to your section and your purpose. There is no best breed otherwise, says *Baltimore Sun*. Remember that a breed has only one dominant talent and seldom excels more than one single characteristic. To a very large extent each farmer must deter-

mine for himself which is the best breed.

Maine Farmer says: The man who attempts poultry raising must learn the business. There is no short cut to success. It must be a steady, sturdy, persistent line purpose to carry a man to the sure ground where he can feel that he is master of the situation. Happy-go-lucky methods may serve their purpose for a time, but these cannot endure. Learn the business.


For Summer runs, dry land is best, because it can be kept in more healthful condition, but where there is plenty of room quite moist soil is all right, says *American Agriculturist*. Some of the largest poultry farms in the country are on strong, moist, clay land, where the water stands in pools after a rain. Yet the fowls, having natural range, are in perfect health and enjoy an abundant pasturage, which is a great advantage.

John M. Wise, in *American Poultry Journal*, says, if possible, locate poultry houses on high, dry ground. Select an elevated site, protected by trees on the North and West. If the yards in front are exposed too much to the sun, plant trees. If you are afraid the fowls will destroy them by scratching about the roots, place stone about the trees, or make a board frame, which can be cheaply and easily made from any old lumber. This will also act as a mulch and keep the ground cool and moist. Trees and fowls are good friends and should never be separated.

A stirring young farmer, who enjoys life keenly and makes a success of his work, told a writer in *Farm and Home* that he was born and reared in one of the largest cities (Boston) and turned Westward for the love of rural life. He wouldn't go back to the city on any account, except for a Winter's visit when he got the woodpile far enough along to permit a week or two off. "These young people around here make the greatest mistake in the world, going to the city," he said with emphasis. "I tell you nowadays a

man is nobody at all in the city unless he's got a lot of money. A man of moderate means can be more independent in the country. I can make more money here than I could in Boston, and it goes a good deal farther."

In the Southeastern portion of Rhode Island, a peninsula about 15 miles long projects into the ocean and is in some parts almost completely surrounded by the water, says *New England Homestead*. At least nine-tenths of the farmers of this peninsula keep large numbers of hens and make poultry products one of their main sources of income, just as in other sections the farmer keeps dairy cattle. In this locality the average farmer keeps from 200 to 800 hens and makes the production of vegetables, milk and butter only a side issue. The influence of the various bodies of water on all sides greatly modifies the Winter climate, the snow seldom stays long and during most Winters poultry can go out and get at green food almost the entire year. Summers are cool and breezy, encouraging to activity of bird life. These advantages are partly offset by the seashore dampness, which encourages roup and other moisture diseases, but on the whole, the section may be considered especially adapted to poultry.



Ninety-six eggs hatched out of a possible hundred, is the unrivalled record of the Prairie State Incubator. More scientifically constructed, more nearly automatic in its operation than any other incubator. The

Prairie State INCUBATOR

practically runs itself. Full descriptions and pictures in catalog; biggest book on incubators ever given away—50 colored plates—free.

PRairie STATE INCUBATOR COMPANY, Homer City, Pa.

RHODE ISLAND Reds and White Wyandotte stock. Eggs \$1 to \$3. Anthony A. Hanson, Maplewood, Mass.

SUNSHINE in the home. My **BUFF ROCKS** will bring it. Unsurpassed in health and beauty. Eggs from two grand pens mated for Standard points and utility combined, \$2 per 15. Mammoth Toulouse Geese eggs, \$1 per 6. **NELLIE REED**, Meadow Farm Poultry Yards, Coldwater, Mich.

BARGAINS. Barred P. Rock cockerels \$1 and up. Eggs \$1.50 per 15. Mrs. O. N. CLARK, Cable, Ohio.

Rhode Island Reds

The Most Profitable Fowl.

Early and constant layers. Fine table poultry. My stock is farm raised, and unexcelled in vigor, size and color. Utility and beauty is my aim in breeding. Eggs from choice birds, Rose or Single Comb, \$2.00 per 13; \$3.50 per 26.

A. E. CUMMINGS, Hudson, N. H.
Member of R. I. Red Club.

W. Wyandottes

Bred for business, Standard points and egg record combined.

Cockerels and Pullets

will be ready for delivery about Oct. 1st.
Write for particulars.

A. F. PUTNEY, So. Natick, Mass.

Strong, Healthy Chicks



are hatched by our incubators, and more of them than hens can hatch. Why? Because our regulator never fails to keep the heat just right. Catalogue printed in 5 languages gives full descriptions, illustrations and prices, and much information for poultry raisers. Sent for 6 cents.

DES MOINES INCUBATOR CO., Box 423, Des Moines, Ia.

WHITE Wyandottes ONLY.

ENTIRE time given to breeding for eggs and meat. Large, vigorous February and March cockerels, from unrelated matings, above standard weight.

We Have Some Beauties at \$2 and \$3. Yearling Parents of above, \$2.

We will try to please.
HOMESTEAD POULTRY FARM, Hopkinton, Mass.

KILL LICE by using Anti-Lice. It's guaranteed. Try it. Sample and plans for building up-to-date brooder 20c. J. E. STROYER, 270 Main St., East, Rochester, N. Y.

Buff Plymouth Rocks

Pedigreed strains. Prolific layers of large brown eggs. Stock unsurpassed for vigor, shape and color. Utility and beauty combined. Eggs \$1.00 per 15. CHARLES H. CANNEY, Dover, N. H.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, Monthly, Three Cents.

By the Year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,
PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

The rate per agate line is 15 cents each insertion; or 10 cents per line if order is for six months or more. About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

Quick Buyers. The readers of A FEW HENS, as we have time and again stated, are quick buyers.

The moment they see advertised what they want, they buy. That is why our advertisers speak so highly of the good results that come from their investment.

Last year Woodward M. Poffenberger, Bakersville, Wash. County, Maryland, tested our columns with a small card advertising Brahma pullets. He soon cleaned out the entire lot he had for sale. Then he tried advertising eggs for hatching, and the following letter explains how that paid:

"Enclosed find our advertisement for the July number of A FEW HENS. Take out our advertisement of eggs for hatching, and put this one in its place.

"The advertisement sold all the eggs we could furnish, and during March and April we could have sold three times as many as we did, although the hens were doing their best. The season is about over for eggs for hatching. We are setting now (June 26), and have about 300 young stock. Will advertise them as they get ready.

"For a paper like A FEW HENS, one cannot advertise stock until it is ready to go out, as the readers are buyers.

"I think there would be plenty of people who would like to buy good stock when well feathered, or from one to two pounds in weight, as it would not be much outlay for them, and believe it would be satisfactory all around. Am anxious to try this branch, and will advertise stock just as we have it."

We have a double reason for reproducing that letter.

First, it proves what we have already said, that advertising in A FEW HENS pays. Our readers being quick buyers, no advertiser should advertise until he is quite ready to fill the orders. Mr. Poffenberger advertises only in A FEW HENS, and he finds we can give him enough business to keep going. That is certainly encouraging for others. He came to our circle an entire stranger. Had nothing to recommend him but good goods. Having been tried, our readers know they can trust him, and he is getting the orders.

Second, we like the idea of advertising chicks at about broiler size, as it gives a

chance for parties to buy stock when they were unable to set hens. But we very much doubt if it would pay all poultrymen to engage in that branch of business. For instance, in May broilers brought 30 cents a pound in market. Today (July 9th) they are quoted at 22 to 24 cents per pound in New York city. The only way it would pay a poultryman residing near New York markets, would be to charge 50 cents for pound chicks. This would not even be much of a mint, as a special shipping crate would have to be made.

However, we say, it is the best way to buy young stock, and our readers will do well to look up Mr. Poffenberger's advertisements as they will appear in A FEW HENS, and avail themselves of really good bargains. If any of our readers who have tried this branch of the industry will tell us just what it costs them to get up one and two pound chicks to be sold as breeders, we would be glad to again refer to the matter in our columns.

An Interest- Charles A. French,
ing Letter. Sandypoint, Maine,
writes a very interest-
ing letter, as follows:

"I notice in June 15th issue of A FEW HENS, page 194, that it is asserted that a dozen eggs cost 10 or 12 cents. How do you figure that out? Last Winter when I had 200 hens, they laid 3 4-5th eggs a week each, and ate 1 3-8th cents worth of food, costing from \$1.05 to \$1.12 per bag; also some clover hay which cost me nothing. As my hens only live to see one November, the carcass ought to be good for the raising to the laying age. This, of course, does not include cost of buildings, wood to heat water, or hired help, of which I have none. On free range eggs do not cost but about half what they did in Winter. I am not writing this in a spirit of disagreeable criticism, but for information.

(NOTE—It costs about \$1.00 a year to keep a hen, and the average egg yield at the present day is 100 eggs per hen per annum. That would leave the cost at one cent for each egg. Of course, where hens give a better average in laying, or where food has been secured in such bulk as to lessen the cost, the cost per egg will be reduced.—EDITOR.)

"I like your paper very much. Some of the other so-called poultry papers are, in the language of the experiment station bulletins, 95 per cent. dry matter.

"In the editorial hints you say, 'tell your experience.' Of all the uneventful careers in the hen business, mine takes the lead. I was a steamboat engineer until four years ago, when I began business with eight old hens. Last Winter I wintered 200 head, and next Winter I hope to have room for 250 at 9 square feet each. I built my own houses, hired no help, but pegged away alone; never made a costly mistake or had a case of roup or gapes, or any other disease. The hens always laid when they got old enough for any reasonable hen to lay, and sometimes sooner.

"I never wrote a letter beginning as follows: 'Dear Editor—My pullets are 9 months old, and have not laid an egg.

I feed thus and so, etc.' Or, 'Mr. Editor: My chickens are dying off, etc.'

"I made quite a study of the books *A Living from Poultry* and the *Biggle Poultry Book*. I recognize an extract from either anywhere. I am getting the living from poultry, and what is said in your editorial 'Every-Day Example' (June 15th issue) is true in my case. I am a stay-at-home. On a steamer I was a stay-away-from-home, working as long hours with more details to look after, a great deal of responsibility, and a hot berth. I like the poultry business very well indeed. I have 570 natural hatched chicks running, 80 of which came on earth March 25th. Hope to purchase an artificial hatching outfit next season. The Good Book says: 'Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.' I always keep that in mind. That experimental farm of yours is an educator, certainly. Wishing you success with it, I remain, etc.'"

A Poultry Woman. We are always pleased when we can give an account of successful poultry work, that we may thereby encourage others. The history and experiences of many of our readers would, no doubt, furnish highly interesting and valuable reading, if we could only get at it.

For some time we have been noting the success of Mrs. George E. Monroe, Dryden, N. Y., who breeds only Black Minorcas, and has become quite famous with that breed. She is a regular advertiser in A FEW HENS, and we have been looking up the lady's record, and here it is:

About 15 years ago, when Mrs. Monroe was married, she became interested in the care of poultry. Her husband, who is a professional man, has no time to devote to such work, and suggested that if she wished to take care of poultry he would furnish all buildings and feed, and, after supplying the table with eggs and meat, she could have all she could make.

That arrangement still stands.

Mrs. Monroe's plant consists of 250 x 12 feet house room, running water the whole length, feed bins and plaster bins every 40 feet. Large runs with Page wire fences; yards set with fruit trees, and all kept clean and sweet. Eight of the 13 pens have open scratching sheds. The past Summer a water motor was added which grinds all feed, cuts bone and clover, etc.

For the past 11 years Mrs. Monroe has kept the single comb Black Minorcas exclusively.

The farm consists of 65 acres of land, so that there is ample room to keep other varieties, but it was thought best to stick to only one.

About 500 head are raised each year, but only 150 are wintered for breeding. It has been Mrs. Monroe's aim to secure only the best stock, but it was only three years ago that she began advertising, since when she has been able to dispose of all the eggs and stock for breeding that she could spare, which has taken her out of the market trade.

In a personal letter to the editor, Mrs. Monroe says:

"In 1898 I was fortunate enough to get a sitting of eggs from the pen of the

1st New York cockerel, an imported bird of Pitt strain. These eggs gave me two cockerels and four pullets, magnificent birds. In 1899 I mated the cockerels with my best Royal and Cornell hens, and the four pullets with my best Cornell cock. This year I mated the pullets back to the two cocks, and the best cockerel from the original cock back to the four hens. I am perfectly delighted with the results of this mating, and have 60 pullets and 50 cockerels hatched in March and April that are all right. They have big frames, long slim bodies deep at the back, low tails, and very alert, keen eyes; grand color. I always introduce new blood through the female, for I am very particular about the laying qualities of the mothers of my male birds. I use the Eureka trap nests.

It would be difficult to say just how I became interested in the show business. I took a half dozen or so birds to Cortland, N. Y., where F. B. Zimmer was judging the birds, in order to have them scored. I had confidence in his ability and fairness. I prefer to sell the birds for others to win on, and after I am better known, I will never show a bird.

"Each year it brings in a better income, as I sell more high priced birds, and eggs at higher prices. I sell more eggs at \$5 than at \$2 a sitting. I find that every one that wants anything above the ordinary, wants the best.

"I have also sold eggs from certain hens at 50 cents each, all I could spare. All this is what makes poultry pay—to have and furnish the best. I use two Prairie State and two Pineland incubators, and have 14 brooders, and also set every hen I can beg, buy or borrow.

"It is hard work and continuous, but I had rather do it than teach school. If I had to do something to earn the bread and butter for us all, I would keep right along 'keeping hens.' "

While Mrs. Monroe is not exactly engaged in that branch of poultry work that we mostly favor, we could not refrain from showing just how extensively a bright woman can engage in the poultry work. She is the kind of fancier that does the whole poultry world good. Before she was satisfied that she thoroughly knew her breed, she refrained from advertising; after she felt safe she branched out, and her business for only three years' advertising, has grown most rapidly. In all her work she does not lose sight of the important merit of the Minorca, the large egg and many of them, and all her matings are to that end. Mrs. Monroe deserves the patronage of A FEW HENS' readers.

Gigantic Egg Farm. For more than a year, A FEW HENS has been aware of the fact that a movement was on foot to establish a gigantic egg farm in New Jersey, but the particulars were so guarded that no reliable information could be secured. It remained for the New York *Herald* to obtain the particulars, which it published in its July 8th issue, and a copy sent us through the courtesy of E. R. Reid, Englewood, N. J.

The farm will be run with the expectation of securing an average of 200 eggs

per hen per annum. In this they will find themselves greatly mistaken. There is no doubt that in the future the yearly average of biddy will reach that figure, but we are not that far advanced just yet. The 200-egg hen is a very scarce article, and it is impossible to secure the number of hens this concern proposes doing, and have the very highest average. If, in such a number, 10 dozen eggs per year can be secured from each hen, it will be wonderful enough.

We herewith reproduce the account as the *Herald* gives it, and while it makes one smile to see some of the ideas advanced, enough good matter is contained in the report to make it interesting and valuable.

The management claim that a hen in a year consumes 20 pounds of corn, 8 pounds of wheat, 6 pounds of barley, 12 pounds of oats, 8 pounds of cabbage, 8 pounds of turnips, 8 pounds of clover hay, 8 pounds of rape, 5 pounds of bone, 5 pounds of scraple, 4 pounds of fish, making a total of 92 pounds.

In return, the hen is expected to lay 200 white eggs, at a value of \$3, yield 4 pounds of carcass at 40 cents, and furnish 40 pounds of fertilizer at 15 cents, making a total income of \$3.55.

The 200 eggs will hardly materialize, but the amount of \$3 for what eggs the hen does produce may be realized under the method in which they intend marketing them; that is, put up in separate



RHODE ISLAND RED HENS.

Half of those in our breeding pens for sale right now at \$1.50, \$2.50 and \$5 each, according to quality. A few males to spare.

BROILER EGGS from vigorous farm range stock not selected for color, although better than the average, at \$20 for 500, least number sold. Will be highly fertile between now and November. Illustrated descriptive circular free.

GENUINE AFRICAN CEESE.

We are headquarters for these also. Old breeders, show birds, \$10 and \$15 each. Yearlings and best full grown goslings, \$5 each, delivered now. Adults of large size and good enough for market breeding, \$10 trio. Medium size \$2.50 each or \$7 trio this month, to clean them out quick. Want room for young stock. We make a specialty of stocking large goose raising plants, supervising them by correspondence or otherwise to insure success.

SAMUEL CUSHMAN, Pawtucket, R. I.
Farm, West Mansfield, Mass.

boxes and sold to private custom as strictly fresh. Instead of realizing 18 cents a dozen as they figure it, the retail market in New York city is more apt to average 25 cents. At least such can be counted on if we may judge by the prices paid the year round. The price of the carcass, too, should exceed 10 cents per pound.

But we will leave the article for our readers to digest. As we said before, there are some pointers in the report that might be of value:

New York is soon to have in its suburbs the largest chicken ranch in the world. At Manasquan, N. J., a company has secured a tract of 350 acres to establish a giant hen industry, conducted on scientific methods.

The company, say its promoters, intends to control the New York market for "guaranteed" fresh laid eggs. They will, they say, deliver eggs in boxes, each box stamped with date of laying, and delivered to customers within 24 hours after the eggs are laid.

The city of New York last year paid \$20,000,000 for eggs, most of them more or less stale, the consumption being 100,000,000 dozen. The first year's output of the enormous new chicken ranch now being laid out will be thirty million eggs. This will be the product of a laying "herd" of from one hundred and fifty thousand to two hundred thousand chickens. The establishment is being planned to rapidly increase to double that amount.

These flocks will be herded under the system invented by Mr. J. R. Benson, an authority on everything pertaining to the hen and its product. Mr. Benson is the general manager of this gigantic concern, which will be the biggest in the world.

In a recent lecture Professor A. A. Brigham, of the Rhode Island College of Agriculture, at the Poultry Experimental Station, Kingston, said:

A Few Hints.

Are you ready to take advantage of low prices? For the present I will offer Crushed Oyster Shells, Orr's Clear Grit and Meat and Bone Meal at a greatly reduced price. These goods are A No. 1. Send for price, stating how much you want. I breed White Wyandottes, White Indian Games, and Light Brahma Bantams.

THE ELLIOT FARM,
D. LINCOLN ORR, Box 9, Orr's Mills, N. Y.

RABBITS



The only low-cost book on the Rabbit ever published to our knowledge, is "The Rabbit: How to Select, Breed and Manage the Rabbit and Belgian Hare, for Pleasure or Profit," by W. N. Richardson, a man of long experience with Rabbits. Third edition now ready, nicely illustrated, enlarged and much improved with breeders' directory. Price 25 cts. or with AMERICAN POULTRY ADVOCATE one year 40 cts. CLARENCE C. DEPUY, Publisher, Syracuse, N. Y.

All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	-	-	25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry,	"	-	25 "
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Farm-Poultry Doctor,	"	-	50 "
A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	-	-	25 "
Total,			\$1.75.

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER,
Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.,) New Jersey.

"To make an industry of the chicken and its product, it is not a question of the market, which can always be had. It is not the expense of keeping, which is always low. It is not a question of profit, which, if properly conducted is large. It is the question how to rear and conduct on a business scale large herds of hens, the chicken business of today being merely a home industry. Something, therefore, must be done to make hen raising a national business on a business scale."

This will be accomplished, says Mr. Benson, at the Manasquan egg farm. Under his system any number of chickens can be herded. Instead of allowing them to run at large and mingle freely, as of old, picking their food from all kinds of refuse, they are to be divided into colonies of not above 30 hens. Each colony will have its own reservation, kept in hygienic cleanliness and order, and separated and isolated at all times from the others.

This makes feeding of each fowl possible to insure the greatest productiveness, with, as experience has proved, an average yearly yield of 200 eggs from each hen. The second advantage of the segregation of the fowls is that should a chicken by any chance become sick or breed vermin, the trouble cannot spread beyond that one reservation before it is detected; hence there can be none of the epidemics which have sometimes played havoc with the fancy stock fowl on chicken farms. Moreover, the new system permits the immediate identification of any hen failing in productiveness, and her prompt replacement by one able to keep up to the high average.

The system includes the extensive use of several patents, which bring the business of chicken ranching and egg producing to a new perfection. One of these is an automatic nest. Without this it would be impossible, where more than one hen is kept, to guarantee that an egg would be free from the taint of incubation. Where hens lay in the same nest and from one to a half dozen sit on the nest while laying, the process of hatching has actually begun before the eggs are gathered for market. This is the main cause why so many eggs spoil.

The new system is the only one which prevents eggs from undergoing some degree of incubation, because the egg is taken from the nest immediately after it is laid. The invention consists of a nest with a hole in the bottom suspended immediately over a revolving disc, which receives the egg as soon as it is laid and moves it away from the nest when released by the rising of the hen. The disc is then ready to receive the next egg, and in this way no egg is incubated for an instant.

The second invention saves the expense of numerous attendants and the lives of the smaller hens. One of the greatest troubles and trials of poultry farms has been that of feeding. Unless time were taken to scatter the food far and wide the larger fowls beat away the smaller from it, and the result was that the smaller were imperfectly nourished, impairing their laying capacity. As small hens may be as prolific as larger ones, and as overfeeding produces fat and diminishes the laying, the import-

ance of fair and even distribution of food to laying hens is plain. To make this cheap and easy, an electric food scatterer has been invented. The attendant places the feed in it, and upon pressure of a button at a central station the food is scattered simultaneously in all sections evenly over the surface of the reservation.

The third improvement is to destroy the vermin, the enemy of fowl. Most vermin pass from fowl to fowl at night, when the fowls are roosting, and crawl up the walls of the chicken house and out upon the perch. These assaults are rendered vain by a perch which is set in a cup, in which the vermin are caught and destroyed before they can reach the fowls.

The eggs will be collected from the nest disc several times a day. Packing and shipping will go on continually. A few hours will bring them to New York in the cars of the company and delivered by their own trains each morning. The fresh laid eggs will be packed and shipped in paper boxes containing from one-half dozen to three dozen. Each box will be secured by a sealed label stamped with the date of laying.

The extent of this ranch is to be very great. Nothing like it exists anywhere. The largest chicken farm today is at Sidney, Ohio. This plant has the capacity of raising one hundred thousand broilers per year, but it does not sell the egg product. To accomplish this it has a flock of less than fifteen thousand hens. Cudahy, the great packer, has a chicken farm of eighteen thousand head near Milwaukee, and this is considered one of the largest in the country. One New Jersey concern is said to be the

HARWOOD'S Buff Wyand., Blue Wyand., Blue Andal. DR. HARWOOD, Chasim Falls, N. Y.

White Wyandottes. Eggs \$1 per 15. Thoroughbred birds that keep the egg basket full all winter. E. K. BLAKE, Nicholville, N. Y.

INCUBATOR EGGS from Barred P. Rocks, \$5 per 100; \$8 per 200; \$1 per 13. Stock one side 2 yr. old. Farm raised. L. P. Van Horn, East Troy, Pa.

Crystal Spring Stock Farm, Burlington, Mass. Breeders of prize-winning R. I. Reds and Belgian Hares. E. W. Collins, M'gr. Mem. R. I. Red Club.

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WHITE WYANDOTTES, LIGHT BRAHMAS and S. C. WHITE LEGHORNS.

Strong, vigorous, heavy laying stock, bred for eggs and meat. Eggs \$1.25 per 13. GEO. W. DUNNICAN, 531 Harrison St., Passaic, N. J.

Business White Wyandottes.

Eggs for hatching from strong, vigorous stock. Heavy laying strain. Price \$1 to \$1.50 per 15. Wyandotte stock for sale; send for score and price. S. C. W. LEGHORNS. Wyckoff's great laying strain. Eggs for hatching. Price \$1 to \$1.50 per 15. White Wyandotte incubator eggs \$5 per hundred. All stock scored by Anglemeyer, judge. Get my circular before ordering; it will interest you. C. E. MISNER, Box B, Calla, Ohio.

WE SELL

Fertile eggs from hardy, prolific Wh. Wyandottes and S. C. W. Leghorns that have been bred and selected for practical purposes, keeping close to Standard as practicable, at \$1 per 15. Low express rates. Prompt shipment. Satisfaction guaranteed. Middlesex Poultry Farm, Box 7, Plainsboro, N. J.


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Won at Vermont big show, January, 1900: 1st and 3d cockerel; 1st, 2d and 3d pullet; 2d and 3d hen; 1st and 2d big brown eggs; 1st on dressed chickens; 1st and 3d breeding pen; 5 special best P. Rocks.

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No Leg Weakness, no Bowel Complaint, but Strong Healthy Chicks that are worth having. The chicks not only like it, but thrive wonderfully on it. To get Chicks rightly started is the secret of successful Broiler and Chick raising; the first two weeks is the most critical period. Use the MANNA exclusively for ten days, and then gradually change over to other feed, and you will have strong, lively Chicks. A trial will convince you.

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Hatch Chickens by Steam



Lowest-cost First-class hatcher made.

with the perfect, self-regulating

EXCELSIOR Incubator

Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at lower cost than any other hatcher.



with the most efficient small incubator ever invented—the

Wooden Hen

Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale; 50 egg capacity.

Catalogues Free. GEO. H. STAHL, 114 to 122 S. 6th St., Quincy, Ill.

largest chicken and egg purchaser in this country, but never have its flocks exceeded eighteen thousand.

"No, this is not a new trust," smilingly said one of the directors, "for it does not combine industries separately existing before. It is a monopoly, though; there is no competition with it in its chosen line."

"Few people know that the insignificant little hen is one of the greatest profit makers and wealth producers. The revenue from keeping fowls for eggs if the herds can be properly handled, watched and controlled is greater than in any other industry," said Mr. J. R. Benson.

"Becoming convinced years ago that there was big profit and room for great improvement in poultry raising, I started experiments and study not in methods of breeding, but to devise proper methods of herding. I found that it is possible on a small area to keep an unlimited number of small herds. This system caused the greatest production. Two hundred eggs per year per fowl was not a high average, and each hen could be made to pay a profit of at least \$2.50 per year. I started with fifteen hens, then increased this to ten families of fifteen each. The result was the same if not better."

Mr. C. H. Wyckoff, of Groton, N. Y., one of the successful small poultry raisers, keeps about 600 head of laying fowls, in small colonies, solely for eggs for the market. His total egg yield was 117,600 eggs for the year ending October 1, 1899. His receipts were \$4.08 per year for each of the 600 hens. He figures \$1.08 per year per hen for keep and expenses, showing a net profit of \$1,800 per year for this colonized flock of 600. And this is the profit, says Mr. Benson, on an investment of less than \$600.

Mr. Benson estimates that this mammoth egg ranch will cost, equipped and stocked with 150,000 hens ready for a daily lay of 80,000 to 100,000 eggs, about \$266,000. The yearly expense of running this plant will be, including feed, delivery system, etc., about \$210,000. The yearly income is figured at \$510,000 for eggs and \$75,000 for non-producing fowls sold as broilers, etc., or a total of \$585,000. If this large gain is borne out in practice, as these gentlemen confidently believe, the docile little hen will become a bigger money maker and profit bringer than even the biggest of money making inventions and investments.

Egg Yield. Some of our exchanges are having a friendly bout over what can be expected from an up-to-date, busy hen. The editor of the *Feather* says it must and will be 200 eggs per year, while the editor of *Farm-Poultry* does not believe it will ever exceed 150 eggs per year. These are average figures in both cases.

There is no disputing the fact, with the introduction of an improved system of trapping the hens and getting their individual records, and subsequently breeding only from the best layers, we will eventually make a big stride toward the 200-egg bird. But whether the general average will ever reach even the 150 egg mark is a question. To average

200 eggs a year, in a flock, it would require a number of layers in that flock with a record of 250 or more eggs, for each hen would not lay the exact 200 and then stop.

So it would be to secure the 150 egg record. It would be necessary to have quite a number of 200-egg layers.

Since experiments have been conducted all over the country with improved trap nests, the fact has become apparent that there are individual hens in many flocks that do remarkable laying. We cannot just now recall what has been the highest figure reported, but it was something like 250 eggs. But such cases are rare. Quite a number 200-egg hens have been developed, but the majority of heavy layers were nearer 150 eggs each.

While we believe in breeding up for heavy records, yet at the same time we had rather have our hens average 120 eggs a year, and remain in robust condition, than to have their systems drained of vitality in the race to pass the 200 mark. There is a reason in all things. If we are to forge our stock ahead to be champion layers, we are going to do it at the sacrifice of something else. Look at the hardy-looking prize fighter, with all the strength and force imaginable—a perfect picture of health. Watch him when on a decline, and see how rapidly he collapses and how prematurely he grows old. It will be so with our hens.

What will become of our meat supply, if we are going to put all the sources to work on eggs? When we spend our food and attention on the fowl with a view to creating an ideal carcass, do we not make the egg yield suffer? Will not this unnatural flow of eggs tend to cripple fertility and make weak and puny chicks?

Why not work for both eggs and meat? Why not have a limit? If we can gradually increase the powers of a hen that she will average 200 eggs a year, and still maintain health and meat qualifications, we say go ahead. But do not try to build up the one at the sacrifice of the other. Such work would soon produce a more delicate race of fowls than many fanciers have been guilty of.

We have had the average of 100 eggs right along. Take one step—make it 120 eggs; another step would take it to 150 eggs; another, 175 eggs; and still

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We have spent \$4,000 on our new book "How to Make Money with Poultry and Incubators." It tells all. Leading poultry men have written special articles for it. 192 pages, 8x11 in. Illustrated. It's as good as **Cyphers Incubator**—and it's the best. Out hatch any other machine. 16 page circular free. Send 15 cts. in stamps for \$4.000 book No. 29. Address nearest office. **CYPHERS INCUBATOR CO.** Boston, Mass. Wayland, N. Y. Chicago, Ill.

A SPLIT IN PRICE. After May 15, B. P. R. eggs \$1 per 15. Hunter and Coburn strain. Bred for layers for five years. Pure bred Pekin ducks eggs \$1 per dozen. Stock for sale in fall. **GEORGE H. BUTLER**, Eliot, Maine.



POULTRY PAPER, illust'd, 20 pages, 5c cents per year. 4 months' trial 10 cents. Sample Free. 64-page practical poultry book free to yearly subscribers. Book alone 10 cents. Catalogue of poultry books free. **Poultry Advocate**, Syracuse, N.Y.

MY BROWN LEGHORNS

are great layers. Cockerels and pullets for sale after September 15. Breeding stock now at a bargain. Eggs in season. **LEE SHORTT**, Lower Cabot, Vt.

another, 200 eggs. Better go step by step, and build up the bird gradually to handle so much business, than to attempt to jump right up to the top, and have the whole matter drop to the ground like a "rope of sand."

Still, we want the 200-egg hen, if we can get her within reason.

Question While the editor of *A FEW of Breed*. HENS may have a personal reason for selecting certain breeds, yet we will not allow any prejudice to interfere in our experiments with other breeds. The prime object of our Experimental Farm is to test breeds, foods and methods. We very often undertake certain lines in which we have very little faith, and often are surprised at the actual results. So with breeds.

Last year we concluded to test the Rhode Island Reds, although we believed they were nothing more than mongrels. We secured eggs from Samuel Cushman, and were surprised at the pretty plump chicks and the rapid manner in which they forced themselves ahead. But when those chicks assumed their feathers, we admit we were disap-

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"D" **Poultry Foods** **Crushed Oyster Shells, Crushed Flint, Calcite, Ground Brick, Ground Beef Scraps, Meat Meal, Granulated Bone, Bone Meal,** Send for samples and price-list **American Poultry Food Co., Box 948, York, Pa.**

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pointed. They looked like a flock of scrub fowls. Nothing uniform in the hens—although the males were pretty. But when those hens got down to laying, we soon learned that never before was the old saying—"Handsome is that handsome does"—so applicable as to those Rhode Island Red hens. As for table poultry, they are second to none, having that rich game flavor. We now like the Rhode Island Reds so well that we are going to make further trials with them. They occupied, during their first year, the poorest house on the place. Next season they shall be domiciled in a scratching shed house, and treated on equal terms with the Wyandottes.

Likewise, we did not fancy the White Plymouth Rocks. We rather preferred the Barred variety. But a season's test gives us a very good opinion of them. They were among our best layers to date, these, too, will be tested more fully the coming season.

We have in mind trials with other breeds. At the end of each year we want to give facts and figures so that our readers may know just what to expect of the different classes.

We began our farm with Light Brahmas. We carefully experimented in feeding and general care, and learned that, properly handled, the Brahma is an excellent egg fowl, and altogether the hardiest and best natured breed in the whole list. Each year our love for the breed has increased, and we could not keep the farm going without them.

Next we took the White Wyandottes and the Single Comb White Leghorns, and their merits were fully tested and reported in past issues.

Last year we added the White Plymouth Rocks and Rhode Island Reds, and next year will have the Barred Plymouth Rocks and probably one or two others. It is not our intention to keep a lot of varieties on the place, for we have not the room, but as we add a breed we want to give it a faithful trial. Then we may dispose of it to make room for something else.

Duck culture received attention in the early days of the farm, but experience proved that we could not profitably conduct that branch on our limited territory, hence had to quit it. Yet we have not lost any faith in ducks. With proper facilities they are very profitable; without the proper conditions they are a dead failure.

* * *

Prophet In 1877, I. K. Felch wrote a prophecy. It was in the pioneer days of artificial incubation. Incubators in those days were not invented by men who had a practical knowledge of the poultry business, and hence, there was hardly a good machine on the market. Look how different it is today, when we can point to almost a score of good, practical hatchers.

In those days, the broiler and artificially reared chick was a luxury only for the sick; how different today. But read Felch's prophecy. Read it carefully, and then stop to think. Note how well he has guessed:

"That poultry husbandry has become one of the largest of our productive in-

dustries, is not now quite generally appreciated and admitted.

"Its capabilities have not yet been dreamed of, for when the artificial hatching and rearing of chickens in large numbers have been proved practicable to the people generally, there is actually no limit to the extension of this limit. The demand for early chickens among the hotels, restaurants and wealthy families of our large cities is immense, and it is constantly growing. The supply is entirely inadequate even at the highest prices, and the field for remunerative labor in this direction is very broad. There are thousands of persons of limited means, who provided they were supplied with a perfectly reliable incubator, could at a very small outlay of capital and labor add to their means very materially and surely. Such labor as would be required in this industry would be of the very lightest, and could be performed easily by women and even children. In fact, we know of nothing else among the varied interests of rural life that could be made so available to all as the artificial rearing of domestic poultry. In addition to its use in hatching chickens for market purposes simply an incubator is a prime necessity to the fancier and poulterer.

"Who has not desired to get out his chickens early, yet has been disappointed either by the lack of sitting hens or by the method of sitting those he has procured. Who has not lost many clutches of eggs from his choicest birds; eggs that to him were almost priceless, because he had no incubating hen or machine to receive them at the critical time.

"In our opinion the Autumn exhibitions and sales might be vastly enriched by great numbers of early hatched, well developed birds, provided a perfectly practicable and reliable incubator were available.

"It is not our intention to devote much space to a review of all that has

been done in the way of artificial incubation abroad and at home. Neither is it our design to describe the many clap-trap machines that have been invented and sold in this country to the great disgust of the buyers. We venture to say that there are more worthless incubators scattered throughout the country, packed away in garrets or cellars, and held by the disappointed owners as so much trash, than there are of all other condemned machines.

"That such is the case, proves there is a want for a good and reliable incubator among all classes, and it also proves that such has not yet been supplied.

"The fact is, no incubator is of any value whatever, unless it contains within itself every principle, every phase and every condition that nature furnishes

BUFF LEGHORNS. Uniform buff throughout; solid buff tails; good layers; two choice pens. Arnold str. Eggs \$1.50, 13. Thos. Keeler, Waverly, N. Y.

INCUBATOR EGGS
from pure bred White Wyandottes. \$3.00 per 100.
SILAS DEAN, Oak Hill, N. Y.

UTILITY, vigor and beauty combined. Absolutely perfect Pure White and Blue Barred Plymouth Rocks. Farm raised stock from the most noted breeders. Prolific layers of large brown eggs. \$1 per 13; \$5 per 100. SUNNYHILL POULTRY FARM, A. H. BARTLETT, Prop., Box 216, Cohituate, Mass.

EGGS from Prize Winners.

White Leghorns (Wyckoff and Knapp strain). Buff Leghorns (Arnold's strain). White Indian Games, White Wyandottes, Toulouse Geese. Prices to suit buyer, Osage Poultry Plant, Osage, Ohio.

GINSENG We are Headquarters for Seed & Plants.
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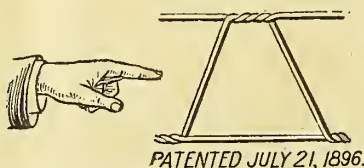
H. A. KUHN, Box 400 H, Atlanta, Ga.

My BUFF Orpingtons

Are egg machines. Eggs from record breakers \$2 per 15. CHAS. H. CANNEY, Dover, N. H.

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M. M. S. Poultry Fencing is used and recommended by Michael K. Boyer (See Dec. issue of *A Few Hens*). We guarantee M. M. S. Fencing to be satisfactory to our customers. One subscriber to *Farm-Poultry*, writes as follows: "The M. M. S. Fencing arrived in due time, and is very satisfactory; it makes a handsome fence, is strong and easily erected. We are indebted to you for bringing it to our notice." Our free illustrated circulars give full particulars regarding size of mesh and wire, also, where you can buy this Fencing. Write today. A postal card will do.

JAMES S. CASE, Box P, Colchester, Conn.
New England agent for M. M. S. Poultry Fencing.

for the incubation of the egg and the successful hatching of the chick.

"In order that such an incubator should be created it is first necessary that the egg and the embryo should be studied in all its stages and wants of its existence.

"The egg is one of the most beautiful of created things. It is, although apparently so simple, wonderfully complicated yet entirely complete.

"To the careless observer it consists of but two elements within the shell, the yolk and the surrounding albumen. Yet the careful student finds within these a multiplicity of features and conditions quite beyond the vision of the ordinary experimenter.

"Now to study an egg requires a trained hand and eye. It also requires in the student, a knowledge of anatomy and a skilful manipulation of the microscope.

"As the embryo chick advances in growth and perfection, it is necessary that every phase and requirement of its embryhood should be studied and understood.

"Profs. Huxley, Agassiz, Foster, Balfour, Bishop, Dollinger, and Karl Ernst Von Baer, have devoted years to the study of the egg, and to their scientific labors we owe most of our knowledge of embryology.

"Their studies were confined entirely to the physiological life of the chick, and none of them pursued their labors to an utilitarian end; that is, they worked as scientists, not as inventors.

"We have said that no incubator is of any value unless it contains within itself every condition that nature furnishes for the successful hatching of the chick. As a rational deduction from this, no one can invent a successful incubator, unless he fully understands what those essential conditions are."

Buff O. F. E., Pittston, Pa., Leghorns. sends A FEW HENS the following letter in support of the Buff Leghorns. It is not our intention to ignore any breed, and at all times will welcome reports from any or all varieties of poultry:

"As a subscriber to A FEW HENS, I am an interested reader of the valuable matter it contains, and strive to apply as many of its hints as practicable with a small flock. I am especially interested in the egg records which appear from time to time, but am disappointed to find that the Buff Leghorns are almost or entirely ignored. I have reason to believe that the variety deserves better recognition. In the appended record I think the Buffs have proved their ability to hold their own with any of them, and even come out a little ahead. The flock, however, includes a few that may be designated as common or mixed fowls. Record No. 2 is that of a flock owned by a neighbor, Mrs. Geo. Gill, who also acknowledges her indebtedness to A FEW HENS for valuable information. The latter flock, however, contains a larger percentage of pure Buffs, which probably accounts for the slight superiority of the record.

GOLDEN BUFF LEGHORNS. Eggs \$1.00 per 15. Most complete catalogue ever issued for stamp. GEO. H. WOLF, Westminster, Md.

RECORD NO. 1.

January, 22 hens, 323 eggs; average 14.68
February, 21 hens, 304 eggs; average 14.47.

March, 20 hens, 366 eggs; average 18.3.
April, 18 hens, 308 eggs; average 17.11.
May, 17 hens, 309 eggs; average 18.17.
Total, per hen, for five months, 82.74; average 16.54.

RECORD NO. 2.

January, 24 hens, 332 eggs; average 13.83
February, 24 hens, 394 eggs; average 16.41.

March, 23 hens, 448 eggs; average 19.47.
April, 22 hens, 386 eggs; average 17.54.
May, 20 hens, 353 eggs; average 17.65.
Total, per hen, for five months, 84.90; average 16.98.

The above report from our correspondent is not only a very good one, but the manner in which it is gotten up is praiseworthy. If our readers will send us reports in the above style, we shall be only too glad to publish them. We want to show up the merits of all breeds, as we do not believe there is one variety in existence that cannot, by good feed and care, be made profitable.

Practical stock that won 63 premiums on 54 entries last season, including winners at Boston. B. and W. Rocks, W. Wyatts, S. C. B. and W. Legs, R. I. Reds, Bl. Javas. Eggs. Cir. G. A. Chapin, Hampden, Mass.

WHITE WYANDOTTE EGGS \$1.50 per setting of 15. (Duston stock). 14 good White Wyandotte cockerels \$2.00 each. B. P. MULLVY, Ferndale Ave. and Newburg Road, Louisville, Ky.

Twenty EGGS FOR \$1.00. Thoroughbred Light Brahmas. Pine Rock Poultry Ranch, Clinton Hollow, N. Y. N. A. TAYLOR, Prop.

S. C. Brown Leghorns.

Large, vigorous birds; great layers. Winners at Pittsburg, '98, Meadville, '00, six cockerels. Eggs \$1 per 15. Write wants. Zundell Bros., Grapeville, Pa.

PURELY BUSINESS BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS. Strong, practical stock, bred for profit. Excellent layers. Eggs \$1 for 15; \$4 for 100. E. A. JOSLYN, Hammononton, N. J.

Sunny Side Poultry Yards

Will sell eggs from heavy laying White Wyandottes for \$1.50 per setting. Ten chicks guaranteed. C. R. CLAUSON, Middletown, N. Y.

EGGS. BARRED P. ROCKS, WH. WYANDOTTES. \$1.50 per 15. Vigorous stock, bred for winter layers. Yearling hens for sale after May 10th. L. G. HAWKS, Fishkill Landing, N. Y.

WINTER EGGS.

May be obtained by getting my strain of B. P. Rocks. Pullets begin at five and one-half months, and lay one hundred and ninety brown eggs in a year. Eggs \$1.50 a sitting. LAKEVIEW POULTRY YARDS, R. W. WHIPPLE, Proprietor, Hamilton, Mass.

WHITE WONDERS WHITE LEGHORNS

Score 92 to 95 Points.

Our White Wonder is the ideal farmers' fowl, being hardy, low rose comb; weight 8 to 9 pounds; fine winter layers.

EGGS \$2 a SITTING of Either Breed.

We have a few White Wonder and White Leghorn cockerels for sale. Score up to 92 points. April and May hatched. Send us your orders early. We will sell nothing but what is honest, and we claim that our eggs will hatch. Try us.

POHNER & PARKER, E. Liverpool, O.

TABER'S White WYANDOTTES P. ROCKS

are bred for utility as well as standard points. Eggs \$1.00 for 13; \$3.00 for 50. Young stock for sale.

MAPLE GROVE POULTRY YARDS, S. A. TABER, Prop., (Alle. Co.), Fillmore, N. Y.

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

The Fowl Not Only Appreciates a Variety of Food, but it is Absolutely Necessary for Egg and Meat Production—Results are Measured by the Feed—Quality and not Quantity Should be the Consideration.

Hens relish cow peas.
Large flaked bran is best.
Avoid mistakes in feeding.
Granulated bone is an excellent side-dish.

White middlings are preferred to the brown.

Underfeeding is equally as bad as over-feeding.

It is not so much what you feed as how you feed it.

Red beets, raw or cooked, are excellent for poultry.

Apples chopped up and fed in troughs are healthful.

We mix our mashers with cold water during the Summer.

Have the feed troughs large enough so that there is no crowding.

Southern Fancier thinks oats makes the best grain food for Summer.

A fixed ration is a mistake, unless that ration contains a large variety.

After a good rain plow up the runs and give the hens a feast of worms.

The majority of successful poultrymen buy their feed instead of raising it.

There is more profit in feeding the surplus milk to the poultry than to the hogs.

Never throw large pieces of grass in the runs, as the fowls cannot bite off pieces.

Let the oats soak for about a half hour before feeding, so that the hulls soften nicely.

Two-thirds wheat bran and one-third cornmeal, wet up with milk, is an ideal food for hens.

S. C. B. LEGHORNS. 15 eggs for \$2, from four grand matings. W. H. DOBELL, Elmira, N. Y.

POULTRY SUPPLIES.
We are Wholesale Jobbers of a most complete line.
JOHNSON & STOKES, Philadelphia, Pa.

Poultry Marker.



With the Marker here illustrated, any form of mark may be adopted by punching the web between the toes. A complete record of chicks from different parties and strains can thus be kept, as well as to know your birds wherever they may be. It may save you money and a valuable bird. It costs, postpaid,

25 cts.

Send all orders to us.

FIVE MARKERS

SENT FOR \$1.00.

I. S. Johnson & Co., Boston, Mass.

See that the drinking fountains are never dry, as water is as valuable as food for fowls.

Better two full meals a day than three bites which only keep the fowls in continual hunger.

Equal parts of wheat, oats and cracked corn give about as complete a ration of whole grain as can be secured.

Keep the mixing trough clean during hot weather, as the soft food which clings to the side is sour and rank.

If grit is mixed with the soft food, it should be the small, pigeon-sized, as larger sized grit is apt to result fatally.

Some poultrymen prefer soaking meat scraps before mixing with soft food, especially if the scraps are very coarse.

In feeding ground oats to chicks, it is best to run the oats through a sieve, so as to separate the meal from the hulls.

We always sift our ground meat, and any chunks that we find larger than a grain of corn, we cut with our bone cutter.

The feeding should either be done or superintended by the owner, as hired help is apt to be either too careless or too forgetful.

The daily bill of fare should consist of wheat, oats, corn, and their by-products, and meat scraps, oil cake meal and green food.

Feeding ground grain dry was tried some years ago, but abandoned on account of the hens not securing enough food to properly manufacture eggs.

If the grit box has a mosquito netting bottom the dust and dirt will sift through, and the fowls will not scatter the stuff about to get the large pieces.

It is always best to cook food for young chicks, as a mass of raw dough is much longer in digesting than a well-baked cake crumbled in milk or water.

The *Southern Fancier* says: The food given fowls affects the flavor of the eggs; consequently, pure, wholesome food should be given in order to secure the best quality of eggs.

Carefully examine the ground food as you mix it. Very often nails, wire staples, etc., are found in ground grain, which are apt to end the life of the most valued bird in the flock.

The first purpose to which food is devoted is to supply wasting tissues and support of the body. All over that amount goes to the manufacture of eggs, providing the food is not of such a nature as to cause overfat.

Geo. H. Brackenbury, in *Poultry Keeper*, says that while oats is not a fattening food, it will build up frame, and the flesh of fowls fed upon one ration of oats and one ration of corn per day will be a great deal firmer and the frame larger than fowls that are fed upon straight rations of corn.

Salt in aiding digestion, says Mr. Brackenbury, in *Poultry Keeper*, also keeps the whole system in good working order. The blood will be kept free from impurities, the fowls will have no colds, no canker nor roup. Then, too, there are those miserable wiry little gizzard worms, which find it impossible to exist in the salt-fed food.

Geo. H. Brackenbury's method of feeding scalded oats is to season each feed of oats with salt at the rate of a good

large tablespoonful to each 8 or 10 quarts of the oats. Sprinkle the salt over the top of the oats and then pour boiling water over them, being careful to use no more water than the oats will readily absorb. Stir or mix them up well. Let the pail in which the oats are scalded be covered while they remain in it.

Thos. F. Rigg, in the *American Fancier*, says he uses oil cake meal in the soft food for both breeding stock and growing chicks. He uses it in the proportion of about 1 to 10—one part oil cake meal and ten parts mixture of cornmeal, wheat bran and ground oats. This is fed to the chicks once each day, the mixture being thoroughly cooked. Oil meal regulates the bowels and thus keeps the chicks in a healthy condition.

A correspondent in *Rural New-Yorker* says if poultry have access to a field of nearly ripe or ripened buckwheat which is not well dried out after being thrashed, they will die from eating it. He knows from his own experience in that line, and from the experience of others who have fed them such buckwheat. The buckwheat swells in the crop and remains there, and the fowl slowly pines away and starves to death, while the crop is full enough to burst. He lost a number that way last Fall, there being a field of buckwheat near the place the chickens were kept.

Black Minorcas.

S. C. B. Minorcas exclusively. Bred for 11 yrs. from best native and imported strains. Trap nests used in all pens. Farm range. Last season's breeders for sale. 25 hens \$1.00 each; 25 at \$2.00; 25 at \$3.00. These hens have long backs and deep bodies. Pitt and Royal strains. No young stock before September. MRS. GEO. E. MONROE, Box B, Dryden, N. Y. Member Am. B. Minorca Club.

TEETH for Hens

Best Grit in market doth not go to dust; it's all Grit. Every surface cuts and grinds to the end and never wears round.

CIRCULAR FREE. LIBERAL DISCOUNT TO THE TRADE.

KEYSTONE GRANITE GRIT WORKS, Perkiomenville, Pa., U. S. A.

EVERY MOTHER SHOULD

Have it in the House

To cure the common ailments that may occur in every family as long as life has woes.

JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT has been used and indorsed since 1810, to relieve or cure every form of Pain and Inflammation. Is Safe, Soothing, Sure. Otherwise it could not have existed for almost a Century.

JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT

Is strictly a family remedy for Internal as much as External use

To cure Colds, Croup, Coughs, Catarrh, Cramps and Colic it acts promptly.



Originated by an old Family Physician. Trust what time has indorsed. Sold by Druggists. Price 25 and 50c. Book Treatment of Disease sent free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.

BONE CUTTER. Webster & Hannum No. 2. Cost \$12. For sale cheap. Make me an offer. A. G. TILLINGHAST, Vernon, Conn.

YOUNG COCKERELS

Barred P. Rock. Two for \$1.00. About 1 1/2 to 2 lbs. each. From laying strain. WOODWARD M. POFFENBERGER, Bakersville, Wash. Co., Md.

FOR RENT. Small poultry plant in Hammonton, N. J., 1-2 mile from station. New poultry houses, capacity 200 hens, 400 chicks. Modern 7-room dwelling. C. K. Nelson

FOR SALE. In Cornwall N. Y., a five acre poultry farm. Good 7-room dwelling, barn & poultry houses. Healthful location. Particulars. A. W. Brewster, Hammonton, N. J.

THE POULTRY ARCHITECT. This book illustrates 117 designs for poultry houses, coops, roosts. Price 25 cents. **EGG RECORD** and Poultry Account Book. Most simple and practical. Price 25 cents. H. A. KUHN, Box 400 H, Atlanta, Ga.

What a DOLLAR will Do.

1 Box Lambert's Death to Lice, 20 lbs. Oyster Shells, 1 Yearly Egg Record, 10 lbs. Rock Grit, 5 lbs. Granulated Bone, 10 lbs. Meat Meal, 64-page Poultry Book, 10 Climax Leg Bands, 5 lbs. Ground Brick, Formula how to make Liquid Lice Paint, Poultry Industry, the People's Poultry Paper, Illustrated. 16 to 20 pages, monthly, one year. This collection worth \$2. Sent you by freight for only \$1. Money back if we don't please. W. S. GALLATIN & SON, York, Pa.

WHITE Wyandotte EGGS

Guaranteed 75 per cent. Fertile. 15, \$1.00; 45, \$2.50; \$4.00 per 100, for rest of season. A few yearling hens \$1.00 to \$2.00. Good breeders. LYONS HILL POULTRY FARM, Circular free. Athol Centre, Mass

EVERY BOY HIS OWN TOY MAKER.

Tells how to make all kinds Toys, Steam Engines, Photo Cameras, Windmills, Microscopes, Electric Telegraphs, Telephones, Magic Lanterns, Aeolian Harps, Boats, from a rowboat to a schooner; also Kites, Balloons, Masks, Wagons, Toy Houses, Bow and Arrow, Pop Guns, Slings, Stilts, Fishing Tackle, Rabbit and Bird Traps, and many others. All is made so plain that a boy can easily make them. 200 handsome illus. This great book by mail 10c, 3 for 25c. C. E. DePuy, Pub, Syracuse, N. Y.

Keystone Granite Grit:

2000 pounds,	20 bags,	\$6.00
1000 pounds,	10 bags,	3.25
500 pounds,	5 bags,	1.75
100 pounds,	trial sample,	25c.

Keystone Granite Dust, \$4 per ton.

CIRCULAR FREE. LIBERAL DISCOUNT TO THE TRADE.

KEYSTONE GRANITE GRIT WORKS, Perkiomenville, Pa., U. S. A.

Our Market Report.

An Accurate Account of the Highest, Lowest and Average Prices for the Best Market Stock, Paid During the Month of June—Goods Not up to the Standard Received Proportionately Less.

NEW YORK.

	Highest.	Lowest.	Av..
Fresh eggs.....	16	14	15
Broilers, dressed.....	30	28	29
Fowls, dressed.....	10 1-2	9 1-2	10
Ducks, dressed.....	20	12	14 3-7
Turkey hens, dressed	10	9	9 1-2
Turkey toms, dressed	7	7	7
Old Roosters, dressed.....	6 1-2	5 1-2	6
Geese, dressed.....	20	20	20
Fowls, live.....	11	9 1-2	10 1-2
Chickens, live.....	22	20	21
Roosters, live.....	7	5 1-2	6 1-4
Turkeys, live.....	9	8	8 1-2
Ducks, live, pair.....	.60	.60	.60
Geese, live, pair.....	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00

PHILADELPHIA.

	Highest.	Lowest.	Av..
Fresh Eggs.....	14	13	13 2-3
Hens, live.....	11	10	10 2-3
Hens, dressed.....	11	10	10 2-3
Roasting Chickens, dressed	13	13	13
Old Roosters, live.....	7 1-2	6	7
Old Roosters, dressed.....	7 1-2	6	7
Spring Chickens, live.....	25	20	22 1-2

BOSTON.

	Highest.	Lowest.	Av..
Eggs, nearby and Cape	19	16	17 2-3
Chickens, dressed.....	25	18	21 1-2
Fowls, dressed.....	12	11	11 1-2
Fowls, live.....	11	10	10 2-3
Roosters, live.....	7	6	6 1-2
Roosters, dressed.....	6 1-2	6 1-2	6 1-2
Ducks, dressed.....	17	14	15 1-3
Geese, dressed.....	12	12	12
Turkey hens.....	9	9	9
Turkey toms.....	8	8	8
Broilers.....	20	18	19
Spring Chickens, live.....	18	18	18

CHICAGO.

	Highest.	Lowest.	Av..
Eggs, fresh.....	12	10 1-2	11 1-4
Chickens, hens, scalded....	8 1-2	8	8 1-4
Chickens, hens, alive.....	8 1-2	7 1-2	8
Spring Chickens, scalded..	18	15	16 1-2
Spring Chickens, live.....	20	18	19
Roosters, live.....	5	4 1-2	4 3-4
Roosters, dressed.....	5 1-2	5 1-2	5 1-2
Ducks, live, old.....	12 1-2	12	12 1-4
Ducks, dressed.....	12 1-2	12 1-2	12 1-2
Geese, live, per dozen.....	\$4.50	\$4.00	\$4.25
Geese, dressed, old.....	6	6	6
Turkey hens, dressed.....	7	6	6 2-3
Turkey hens, live.....	7	5	6
Turkey gobblers, dressed..	7	6	6 2-3
Turkey gobblers, live.....	6	5	5 2-3

Barred Rocks bred for beauty, size, early laying. Eggs \$2 per 13. Mrs. Tilla Leach, Cheneyville, Ills.

R. I. RED EGGS \$1.00 per 26. Ed. F. Staples, Box 17, Lakeville, Mass.

TRAP NEST BOX. My book on egg production tells how to make one; 50 cents. Circular free. E. L. WARREN, Wolfboro, N. H.

TRY "THE PRACTICAL HEN SEPARATOR."

Separates the layers from the non-layers. Equal to the best. Separator \$1.25. Plans 75 cents. E. A. JOSLYN, Hammononton, N. J.

EGGS. White and Barred Rock, S. C. W. Leghorn, \$1.50 per 15. W. C. B. Polish \$2.50 per 15. E. Marquand, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

DO YOU WANT LAYERS? My Barred Plymouth Rocks have been selected for several years for their quick growth and early laying qualities. Eggs \$1.00 per setting; \$6.00 per hundred. C. F. EASTMAN, Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

Begin Now

to keep an egg record and account of your fowls. We furnish the most simple, practical and easily kept book for the purpose, at 25 cts., postpaid. H. A. KUHN, Box 400 H, Atlanta, Ga.

Belated Odds and Ends.

Here Are Some Odds and Ends That Came in Our Mail Too Late to be Classified, but Interesting Nevertheless.

Emory E. Banks, Crittenden, N. Y., writes: "The way I cure fat hens is to not feed them mash for a few days, and make them work as much as possible. I am a crank on exercise, and think a hen will not get too fat if she has enough of it, especially if she is laying."

W. O. Heinly, Pottstown, Pa., writes: "After reading your valuable paper ever since the first issue, I was induced to purchase a Prairie State incubator, a Champion brooder, Mann bone cutter, Evans Root cutter, and Granite State cooker, and will say that these with a regular subscription to A FEW HENS, are the six essentials to successful poultry culture."

W. L. Sessoms, Surry, Va., writes: "I keep both White Wyandottes and Rhode Island Reds, but for good, solid work, plenty of good sized eggs, and the juiciest and finest carcasses, give me the Reds. I must admit when I got mine they looked to me like a flock of mongrels, and I thought I had been cheated, but I don't think so now. Besides that, they are the tamest of the two varieties, and seem to be as hardy as bucks."

A Everett Basset, Harwich, Mass., writes: "I am a subscriber to your paper A FEW HENS, and like it very much. It is just what I and everyone that keeps poultry needs. I saw an article in the March 15th issue where the Tennessee Farmer says a chicken should reach broiler weight (2 1-2 pounds dressed) in three months, and it goes on to say there is no breed that will gain that weight in three months. I have a White Wyandotte cockerel that was three months old that weighed 4 pounds, 2 ounces, live weight, and one that weighed 4 pounds. They were raised in a yard."

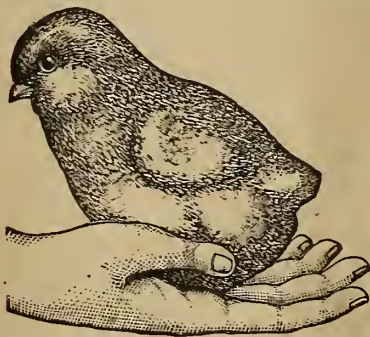
Emil Jordan, Haverhill, Mass., writes: "I see in print many ways for breaking up broody hens, but I believe I have as humane a plan as could be adopted. It is to yard them *next* to a vigorous cockerel. In other words, I have a four pen house, each 4 x 4 feet. In one pen I have broody hens, and in the next pen a cockerel; then follows a pen of broodies, and next another cockerel. The yards are 12 feet in length, 4 feet wide. No nests are allowed in the houses. In about a week I can break up my worst broodies in this manner."

W. H. Jones, Lincoln University, Pa., writes: "My White Plymouth Rocks, hatched May 1st, commenced laying in October. I did not keep any record of eggs during that month, but did in November, commencing 20th of

Keep Your Chickens

STRONG and HEALTHY.

Those who succeed best raising poultry for profit are those who commence with little chicks, giving small doses of SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER twice a week; then a little larger doses, and so on to the time when getting the pullets ready for early fall laying, a dose say of one teaspoonful to each quart of food, and so continue to use it, as one customer says she does, "from the cradle to the grave," and you will succeed nine times in ten, and have plenty of eggs to sell in the fall and winter months when prices are highest.



To make your Poultry pay, first hatch Strong, Healthy Chickens.

Then keep them healthy and growing if you want the Pullets to lay when five months old. When hens lay eggs for hatching, mix in their food every other day, SHERIDAN'S POWDER. It strengthens the hens; makes the rooster more vigorous; finally you get more fertile eggs.

It is a fact based upon the declaration of a noble contributor to science, that through the medium of the circulating blood, any particular organ of a living animal may be reached and stimulated into renewed vigor and activity if we will only administer the proper material to produce the desired effect.

No Matter What Kind of Foods You Use!

Sheridan's Condition Powder

is needed with it to assure perfect assimilation of the food elements necessary to produce eggs. It is absolutely pure; Highly concentrated; Most economical, because such small doses; No other kind one-fourth as strong; In quantity costs less than one-tenth cent a day per hen. In use over 30 years.

Sold by Druggists, Grocers and Feed Dealers, or sent by mail. Large cans most economical to buy.

IF YOU CAN'T GET IT NEAR HOME, SEND TO US. ASK FIRST. We send one pack, 25 cts; five, \$1.00. A two-pound can, \$1.20; Six, \$5.00. Express paid. Sample copy "best Poultry paper" sent free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

WHITE WYANDOTTES
Golden Egg Strain.
My last year's breeders for sale at \$1.00 up.
WM. E. SARGENT, Lancaster, Mass.

November, 35 pullets received each morning one quart of wheat, at noon one quart of cracked corn, at 4 p. m., all the cut bone they would eat. If they left any it was gathered up and kept for next day. They have not showed any sign of sickness, and their droppings have been to my eyes just right.

Twenty pullets laid in November, 370 eggs. I give cabbage and steamed clover where they can get it whenever they wish."

John Smith, Reading, Pa., writes: "Up until this year I have always used incubators to do my hatching, and brooders to rear the chicks, but this year I had to fall back on broody hens. The reason for it was that I had taken a contract for a certain amount of eggs at a good price from January 1st to June 30th. This left me only about a dozen eggs over every day, outside of what we needed in the family. So I had to set hens. Well, such an experience. I set in all 160 eggs, and got only 90 chicks, of which I raised so far fifty. If I would have had such luck with an incubator and brooder, the chances are I would have condemned it. Hereafter, if I make a contract for supplying eggs, there must be a provision in it that the order must not interfere with the regular running of my two Prairie State 100-egg incubators."

W. E. Bassler, Middleburgh, N. Y., writes: "A balanced ration to my mind is one that produces healthy fowls and gives a good yield of egg fruit at the lowest possible cost. I am serving my hens with the following menu, and they are looking well, are doing well, make no complaints, and seem to be happy. Each morning as they hop from the roost they are given a small handful of grain, usually buckwheat, for that will readily disappear among the straw and chaff, and the hens, in order to find it, must begin scratching. Perhaps an hour after they are given a warm mash made of equal parts, by measure, of corn, oats and barley, and wheat bran. To this is added an equal bulk, as near as may be, of clover heads and leaves, scraped up from the floor where I throw down the hay for the cows. Once or twice a week, in the place of the ground mixture above mentioned I substitute Bowker's Animal Meal, or H-O Meal. I use no ground bone to speak of. For whole grain I use wheat, buckwheat, corn and oats, changing the feed frequently.

"My fowls are bred more particularly for egg production, and under the above practice of feeding my strain has gained the reputation of being big layers.

"Feeding a proper mash does not lessen the percentage of fertility. I

ship eggs for hatching as far South as Georgia, as far West as Colorado, and have no complaints to speak of about infertile eggs. My fowls are active and I seldom have a sick one. A warm mash throughout the Winter, in my judgment, is all right. The secret of success lies in not feeding too much so as to fatten your fowls and make them lazy. Skimmed milk given as a drink, or put into the mash, increases egg production."

If People only Knew

what strong, vigorous Cockerels and Pullets we have for sale and ready to enter the breeding pen, they surely would buy some. Considering the quality and vigor of the stock, we claim to have as good and cheap as any one. If you are interested in Turkeys, Ducks, Geese, Guinea or Chickens, send for my catalogue, it fully describes the 23 varieties I breed. It is now time to inquire about incubator eggs. We can furnish them by the 100 or 1000. Prices quoted on application. D. A. MOUNT, Pine Tree Farm, Jamesburg, N. J.

People We Know.

Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.

If you are interested in Bantams, send 5 cents to *American Fancier*, Johnstown, N. Y., for its June 23d issue. It is a good one.

The July number of *Poultry Monthly*, Albany, N. Y., is a Houdan special and is worth having. Ten cents will procure it, postpaid.

At \$1 each, W. R. Curtiss & Co., Ransomville, N. Y., are giving you the best bargains of the season in White Wyandottes and Pekin Ducks.

D. Lincoln Orr, in his advertisement in this issue says: "Orr's Clear Grit and A FEW HENS is the best combination on earth. We second the sentiment."

Editor Valentine, of *Poultry Monthly*, announces in the July issue that he will remove his editorial sanctum from New York city to his farm at Westfield, N. J., so as to be right among the hens.

Rowland G. Buffinton, Fall River, Mass., a regular advertiser in A FEW HENS, is always on top with novelties. He is now advertising Pea Comb Rhode Island Reds, Partridge Wyandottes and Diamond Jubilee Orpingtons.

E. W. Grant, Hammononton, N. J., the largest broiler raiser in this town, says he can force his chicks to broiler weight quicker by the use of Sheridan's Condition Powder than anything else, as it increases the vigor and appetite.

The *Fanciers' Review*, Chatham, N. Y., have just issued a new treatise on the subject of breeding, care and management of the Belgian Hare. It should be in the hands of all interested in this industry. See advertisement on page 5 of this issue.

In reply to a number of inquiries about letting poultry farms in Hammononton, N. J., we would refer the parties to C. K. Nelson's advertisement in this issue. It is a model. Mr. Nelson vacates the place to give his attention to a much larger plant.

We have received the 1900 catalogue of the Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Company, 28 Vesey street, New York city. It is the largest and most complete poultry catalogue ever gotten out—besides the firm is one of the most reliable in this country. Every poulterer should have it for reference.

Wm. H. Child, Hathoro, Pa., breeder of White and Silver Wyandottes, can give bargains in choice stock. Mr. Child is one of the most reliable expert Wyandotte breeders in the country and his stock comes the nearest to combining beauty and utility in the highest degree of any we have yet seen.

In a personal letter to the editor, A. F. Cooper, of the Prairie State Incubator Co., Homer City, Pa., writes: "As to business, will state that we are still running, although our engine broke down this morning, but will have it repaired in a few days. Last year at this time we were not turning a wheel, and had over 2,000 machines in stock, and closed down for repairs. This year we are still behind in orders a little, and do not have any machines in stock. In fact, our trade has been remarkably heavy this year, and we were not able to take care of more than 60 per cent. of it."

EGGS \$1.00 per 15. Light Brahmas. E. T. ABBADUSKA, Waldron, Mich.

PURE BRED Silver Wyandottes. Eggs 5c. each. Try them. D. R. HERSHEY, Comus, Md.

EMPIRE strain W. P. R., Buff Wyandotte and S. C. Brown Leghorns. Eggs and stock for sale. Eggs \$2 for 15. F. E. STILLMAN, Nile, N. Y.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS exclusively. Incubator eggs \$3 per 100. C. A. Hall, Oak Hill, Greene Co., N. Y.

Incubator Eggs \$3 per 100, from large, vigorous White Wyandottes. Eggs from fancy matings \$1 per 13. W. G. HALE, Nortonhill, N. Y.

195 EGG STRAIN S. C. White Leghorns exclusively. Eggs guaranteed 75 per cent. fertile. \$1 per 13; \$3 per 50; \$5 per 100. W. H. WARREN, Ransomville, N. Y.

CRUMHORN Poultry Farm, W. J. Kilts, Milford, N. Y. Devoted to breeding S. C. W. Leghorns for great egg production and Standard points. Eggs from choice mated pens 75 cents per 15; \$4 per hundred.

M. B. HATTON, Proprietor of **Delta White Wyandotte Poultry Yards.** **THOROUGH BRED STOCK FOR SALE.** Eggs for hatching, \$1.00 per 15. Delta, Ohio.

WHITE P. ROCKS. Bred for size, shape, shade, silver. Winners at Philadelphia, '99, and Wilkes-Barre, '99. Eggs \$2.00 per 15; \$5.00 per 30. W. A. WAGNER, Luzerne, Pa.

BUFF PLYMOUTH ROCKS, Buff Pekin Bantams, Buff Leghorns, Barred Plymouth Rocks, White and Silver Laced Wyandottes and Pekin Ducks. Eggs \$1.00 per 13. HERBERT MCCOY, 1119 Elm Street, Peekskill, N. Y.

HEAT REGULATORS

for incubators, nurseries, hospitals, greenhouses, kilns, various buildings, or other places. \$5.00 buys a thermostat to operate a valve damper or trip or all combined, that will keep the predetermined temperature within a fraction of a degree, in a variation outside the chamber of from 40 degrees below zero to a 100 or more above. We are needed wherever artificial heat is used and a close heat regulation is desired. This invention appeals to the art as the most practical, reliable and satisfactory heat regulator invented in this or any other country.

Scientific Thermostat Co., Stoughton, Wis.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined. Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

Buffinton's Rhode Island Reds

Won prizes at Philadelphia, Boston and New York. We have bred them eight years, and all the birds we have exhibited in that time was raised on our farm. If you want well bred R. I. Reds buy eggs from this stock.

BUFFINTON'S BUFFS FOR 1900

ARE BETTER THAN EVER.

Prices of eggs: Rose, Single and Pea comb R. I. Reds, Buff and Partridge Wyandottes, Buff P. Rocks and Diamond Jubilee Orpington, \$2.00 for 13; \$5.00 for 40. Buff Cochins, Buff and White Leghorn, Barred P. Rocks and Light Brahma, \$1.25 for 13; \$3.00 for 40. Send for circular.

ROWLAND G. BUFFINTON, Box 677, Fall River, Mass.

EATON BROS., SEARSPORT, MAINE.

Originators and breeders of the light weight strain of **LIGHT BRAHMAS.** We have bred them fourteen years for eggs and early maturity. They are short-legged, active, very hardy, and great layers. Eggs \$1.00 per sitting; discount on quantity. P. O. address, Park, Maine.

CAPON Care and Culture. Instruction Book Free. Send stamp to Allerton Caponizer Mfg. Co., Allerton, Iowa.

WYCHILD'S WYANDOTTES WHITES AND SILVERS EXCLUSIVELY.

EGGS for hatching from strong, farm raised stock. Send stamp for circular. Wm. H. Child, Hathoro, Pa.